

STARBLAZER

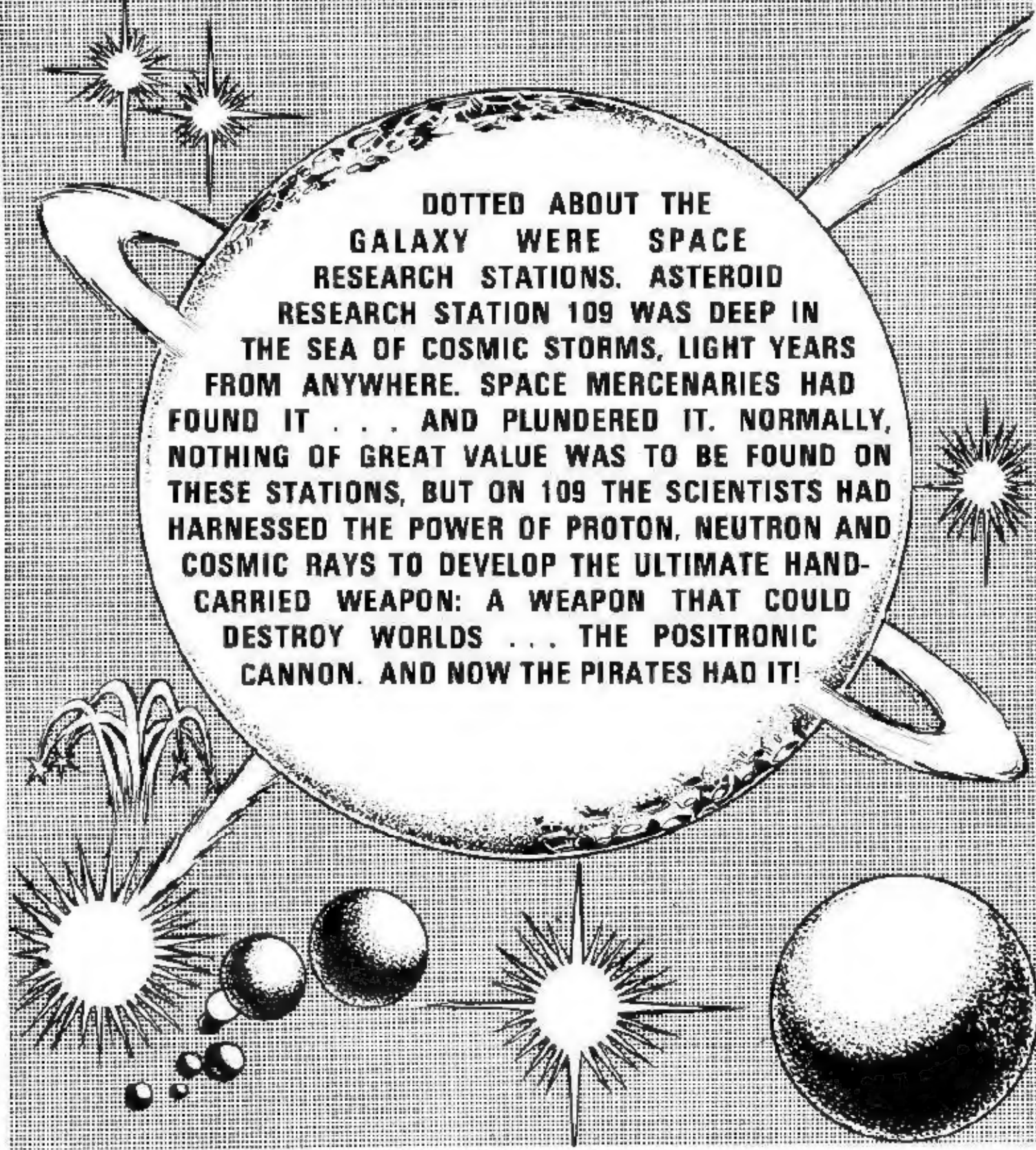
SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 30

12p

THE POSITRONIC CANNON



STARBLAZER



DOTTED ABOUT THE GALAXY WERE SPACE RESEARCH STATIONS. ASTEROID RESEARCH STATION 109 WAS DEEP IN THE SEA OF COSMIC STORMS, LIGHT YEARS FROM ANYWHERE. SPACE MERCENARIES HAD FOUND IT . . . AND PLUNDERED IT. NORMALLY, NOTHING OF GREAT VALUE WAS TO BE FOUND ON THESE STATIONS, BUT ON 109 THE SCIENTISTS HAD HARNESSSED THE POWER OF PROTON, NEUTRON AND COSMIC RAYS TO DEVELOP THE ULTIMATE HAND-CARRIED WEAPON: A WEAPON THAT COULD DESTROY WORLDS . . . THE POSITRONIC CANNON. AND NOW THE PIRATES HAD IT!

The POSITRONIC CANNON



SHORTLY AFTER THE RAID ON 109, THE SPACE CLIPPER GANYMEDE MADE ITS REGULAR CARGO RUN FROM EARTH TO OHIO, THE OUTERMOST PLANET IN THE LEGRANGE CLUSTER. BUT ON THIS RUN, SHE CARRIED A PASSENGER.

THE PASSENGER WAS CAPTAIN HUSTEN ON HIS WAY TO TRY AND RECOVER THE POSITRONIC CANNON.

TIME ACCELERATED MESSAGE
ON CHANNEL 4, CAPTAIN HUSTEN.

OKAY, SPARKS, CHANGE
PLACES WITH THE CAPTAIN.




HUSTEN PUNCHED IN A SPECIAL CODE TO SLOW DOWN THE
ACCELERATED MICRO-SOUND RADIO PULSE.




THE VOICE OF CENTRAL COMMAND'S INTELLIGENCE CHIEF CAME OVER THE HEADPHONES.

SINCE YOU LEFT EARTH, THERE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE NEW DEFENCE TREATY WITH THE SAGASSAN EMPIRE. ALL MILITARY FORCES AND INTELLIGENCE NETWORKS ARE TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE LEGRANGE CLUSTER AND THE REGION DECLARED NEUTRAL TERRITORY UNDER SPACE LAW.

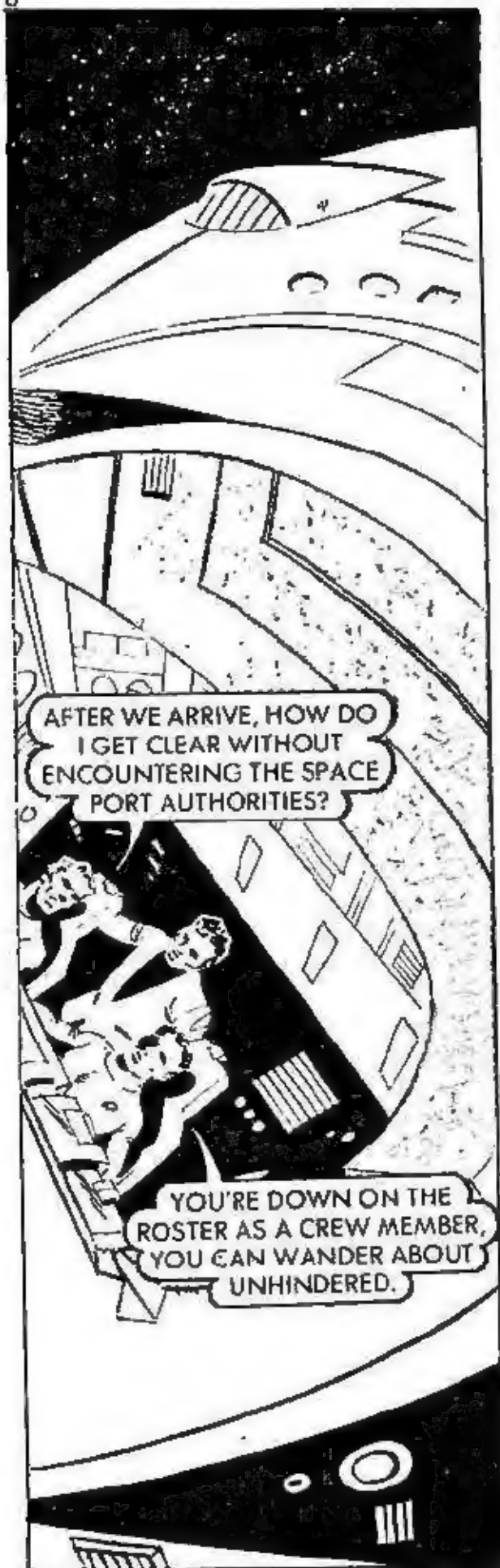


WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO, SIR?

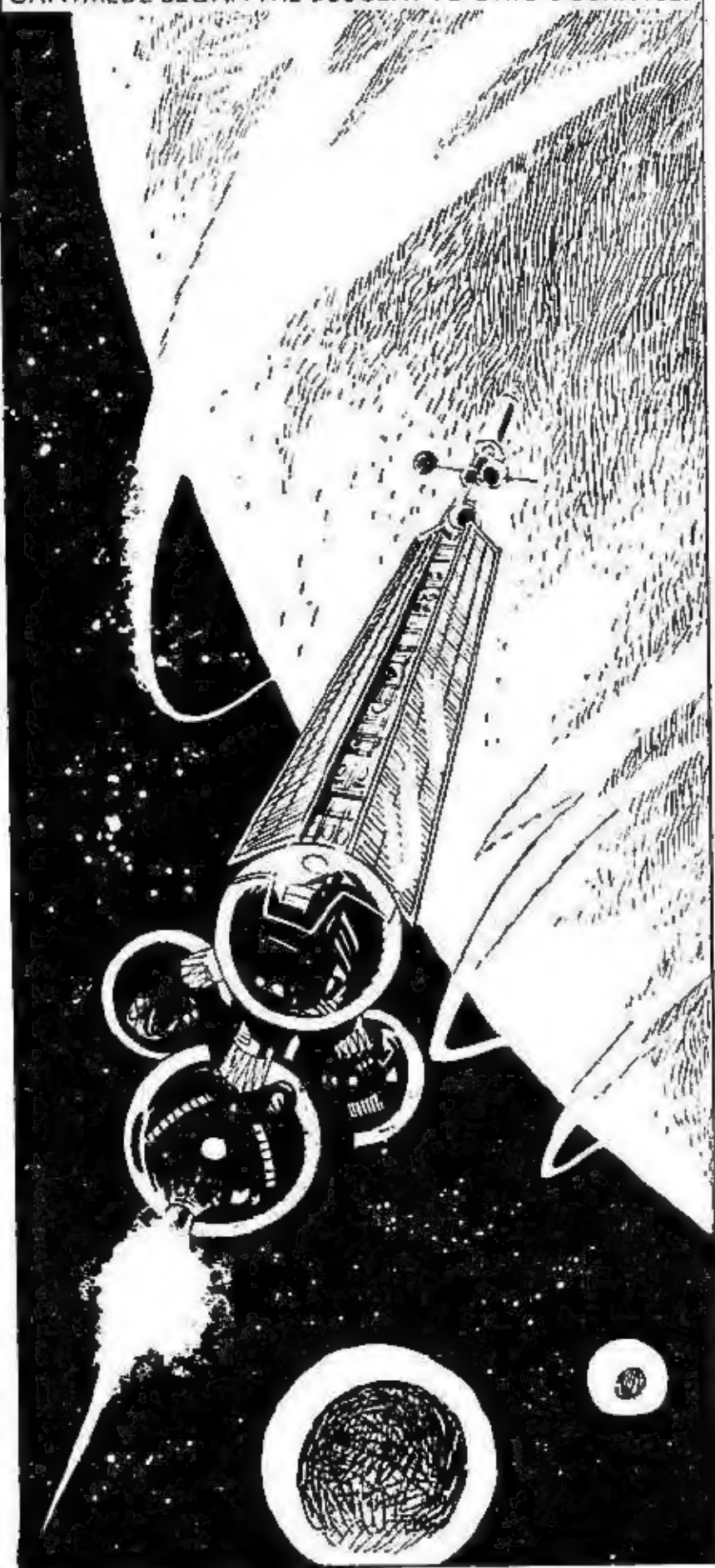


AFTER TOUCH-DOWN ON OHIO, YOU ARE TO PROCEED TO LAUNCH DOCK 14 WHERE YOU'LL MEET YOUR CONTACT, A SPACE TRADER CALLED WINSTON. HE'S BEEN AN AGENT IN THE LEGRANGE CLUSTER FOR SOME YEARS AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP YOU.

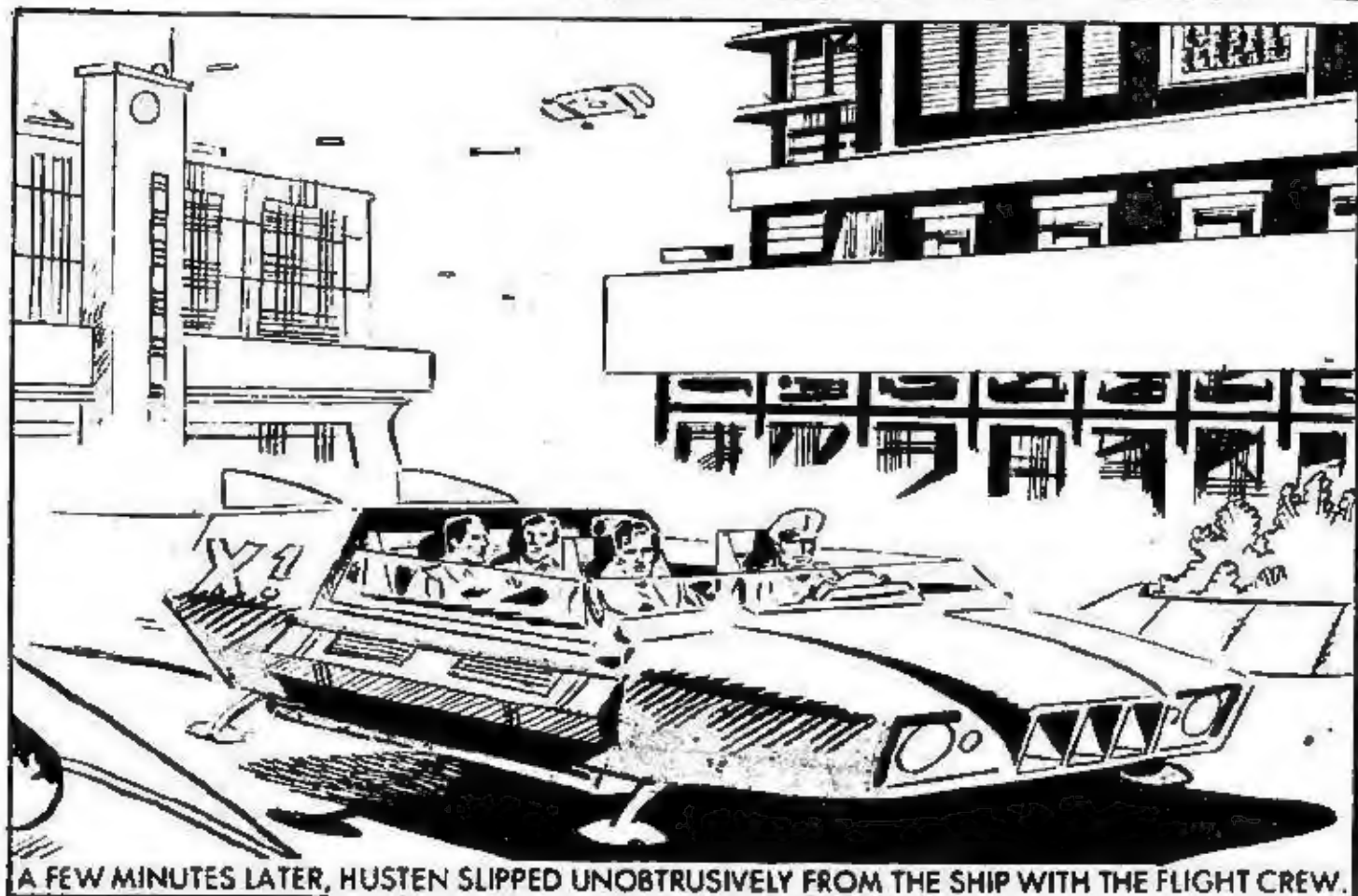
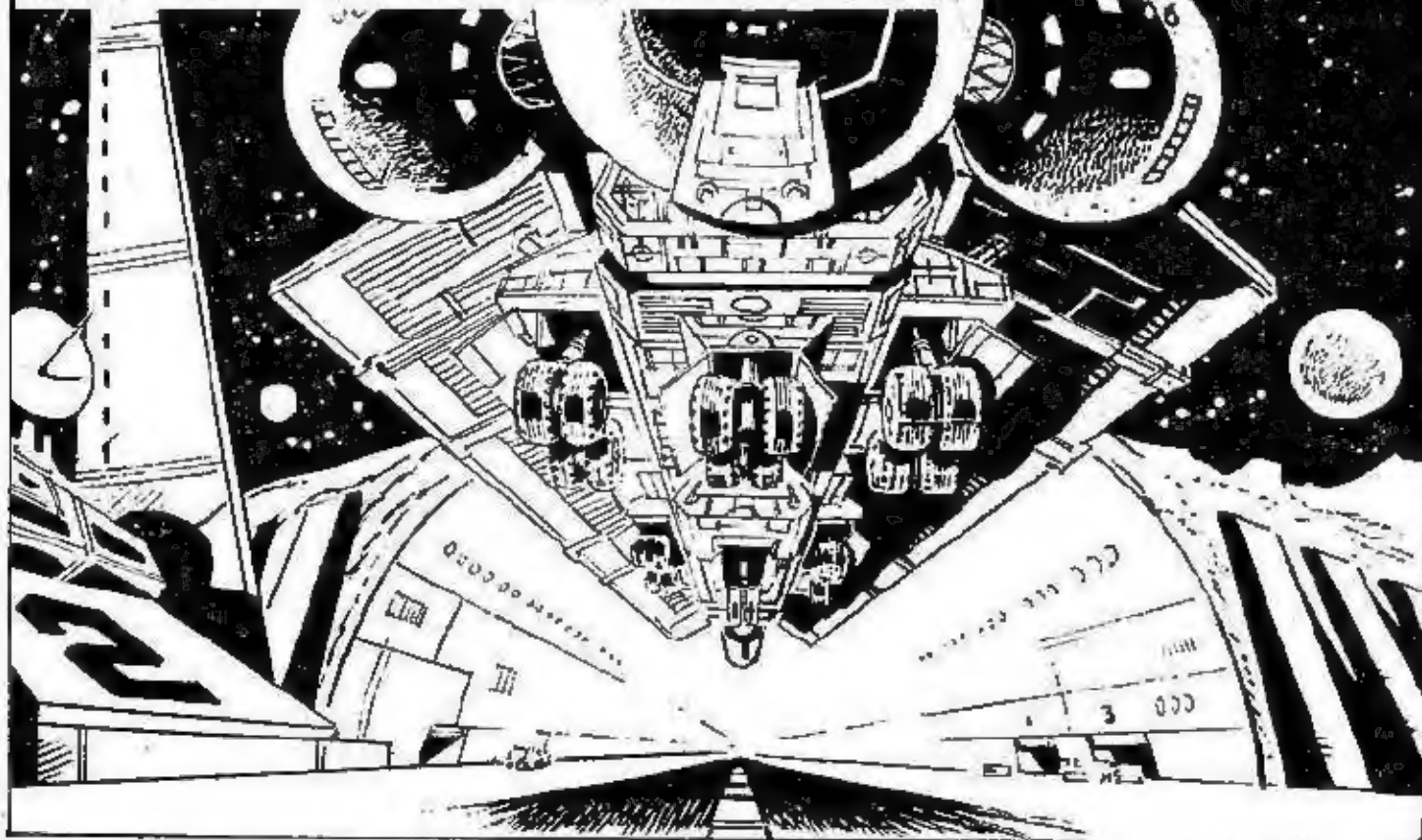
THANK YOU, SIR.



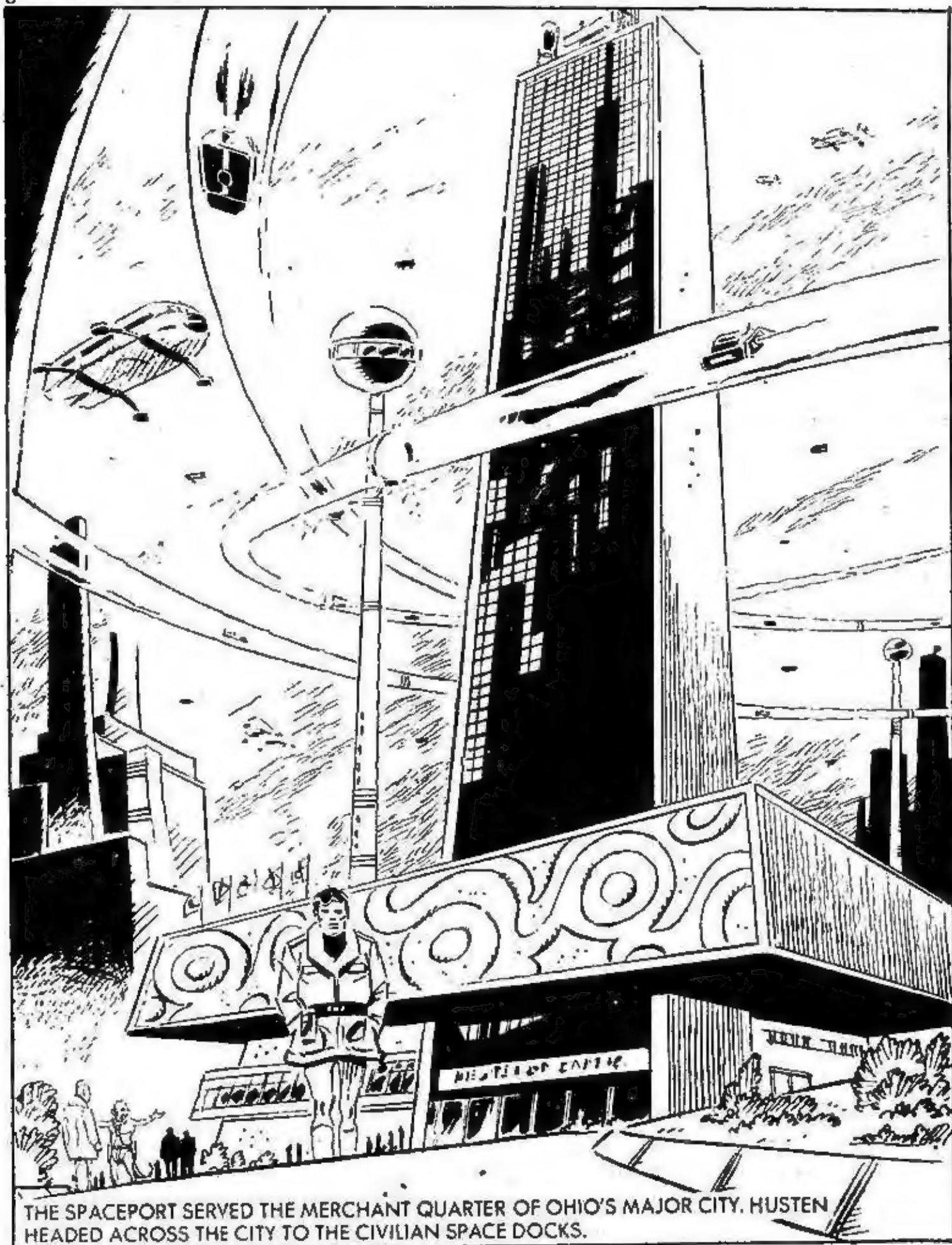
GANYMEDE BEGAN THE DESCENT TO OHIO'S SURFACE.



THE CLIPPER TOUCHED DOWN AT OHIO'S MAIN SPACEPORT TERMINAL AND HOVER-TRUCKS SCURRIED ACROSS THE LANDING PAD TO UNLOAD HER.



A FEW MINUTES LATER, HUSTEN SLIPPED UNOBTUSIVELY FROM THE SHIP WITH THE FLIGHT CREW.



THE SPACEPORT SERVED THE MERCHANT QUARTER OF OHIO'S MAJOR CITY. HUSTEN HEADED ACROSS THE CITY TO THE CIVILIAN SPACE DOCKS.





I'VE NO IDEA WHAT THIS IS ABOUT,
BUT IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A FIGHT OF IT...



THIS WILL FINISH
YOU, HUSTEN

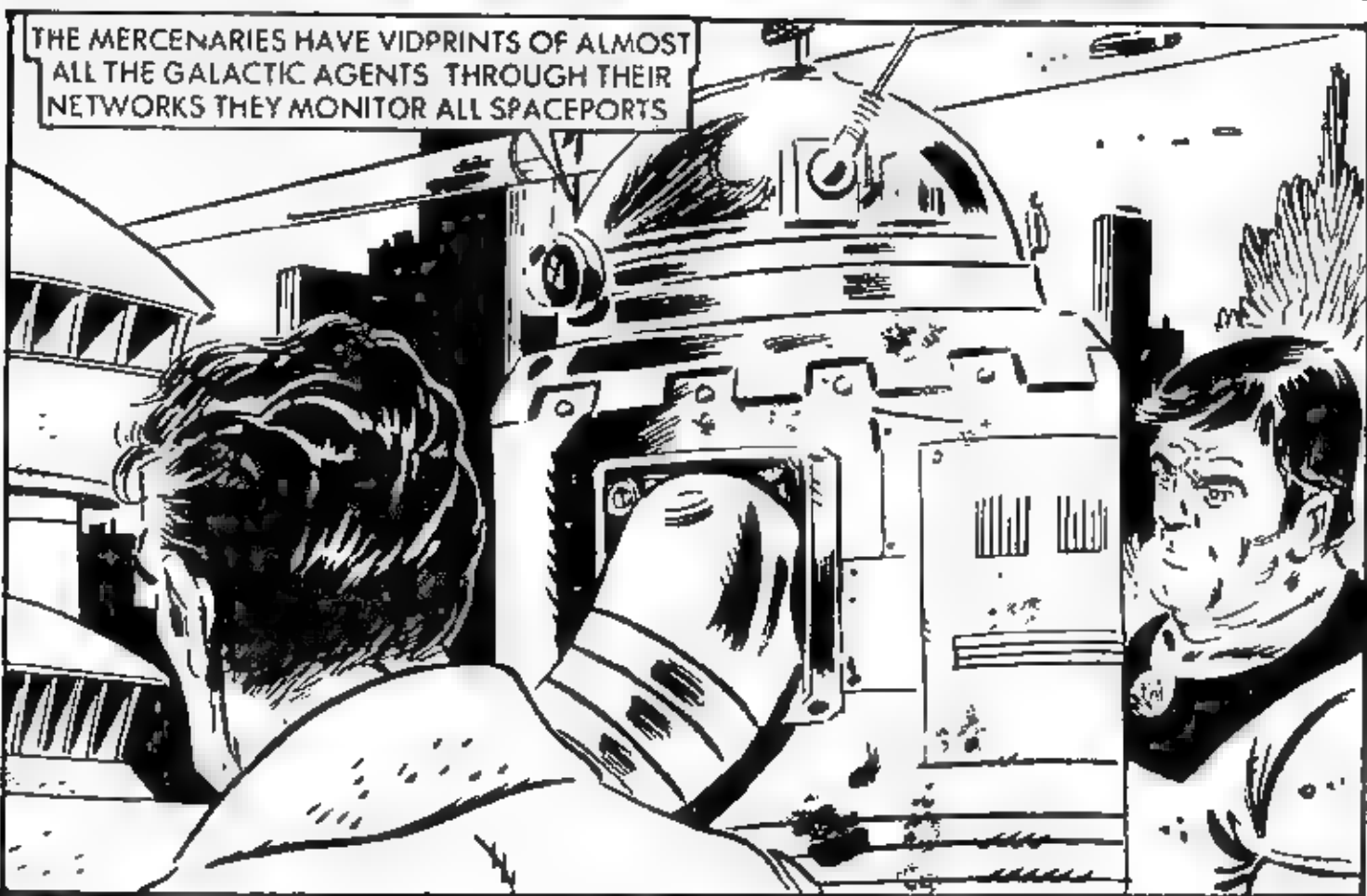
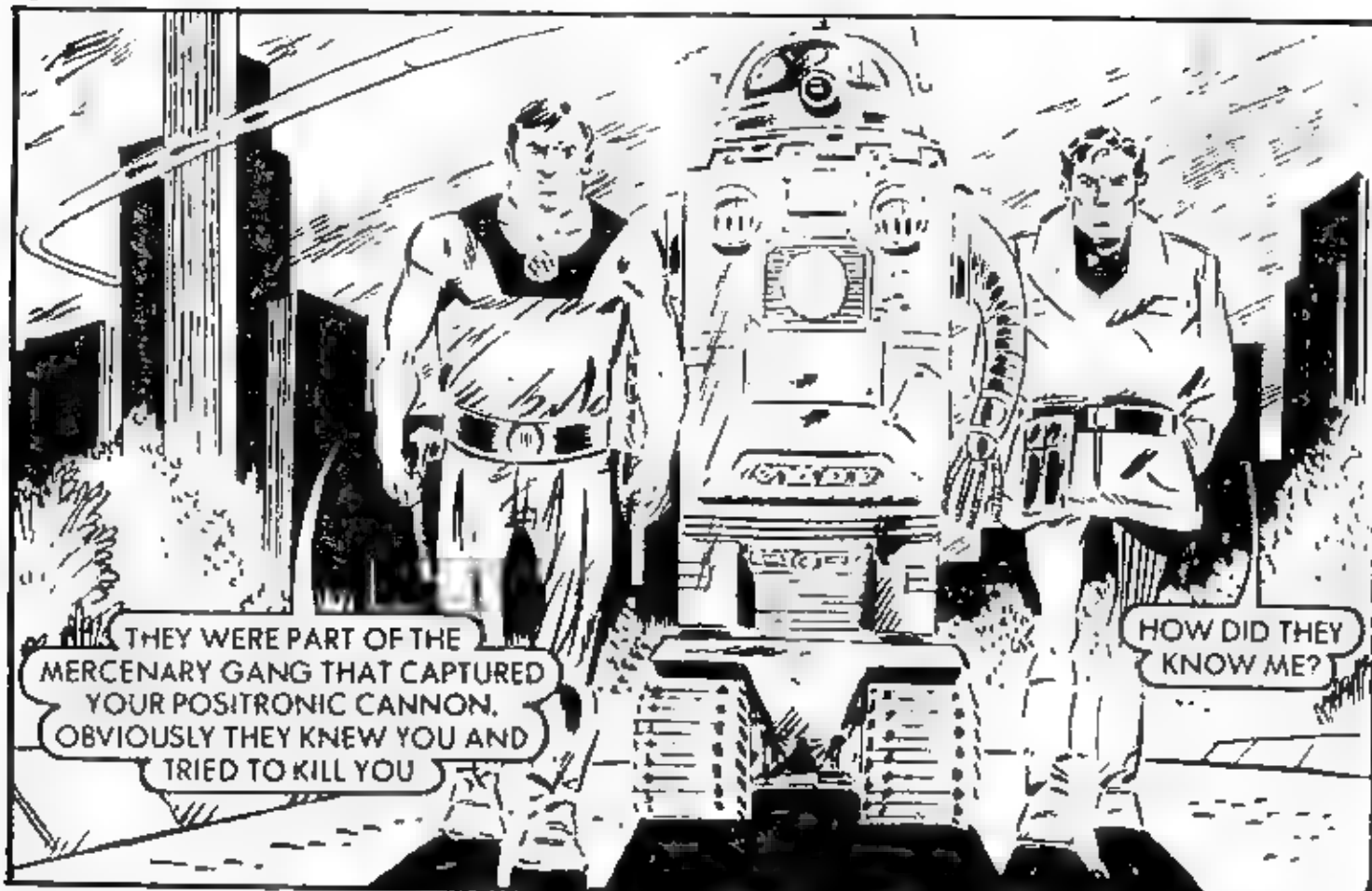




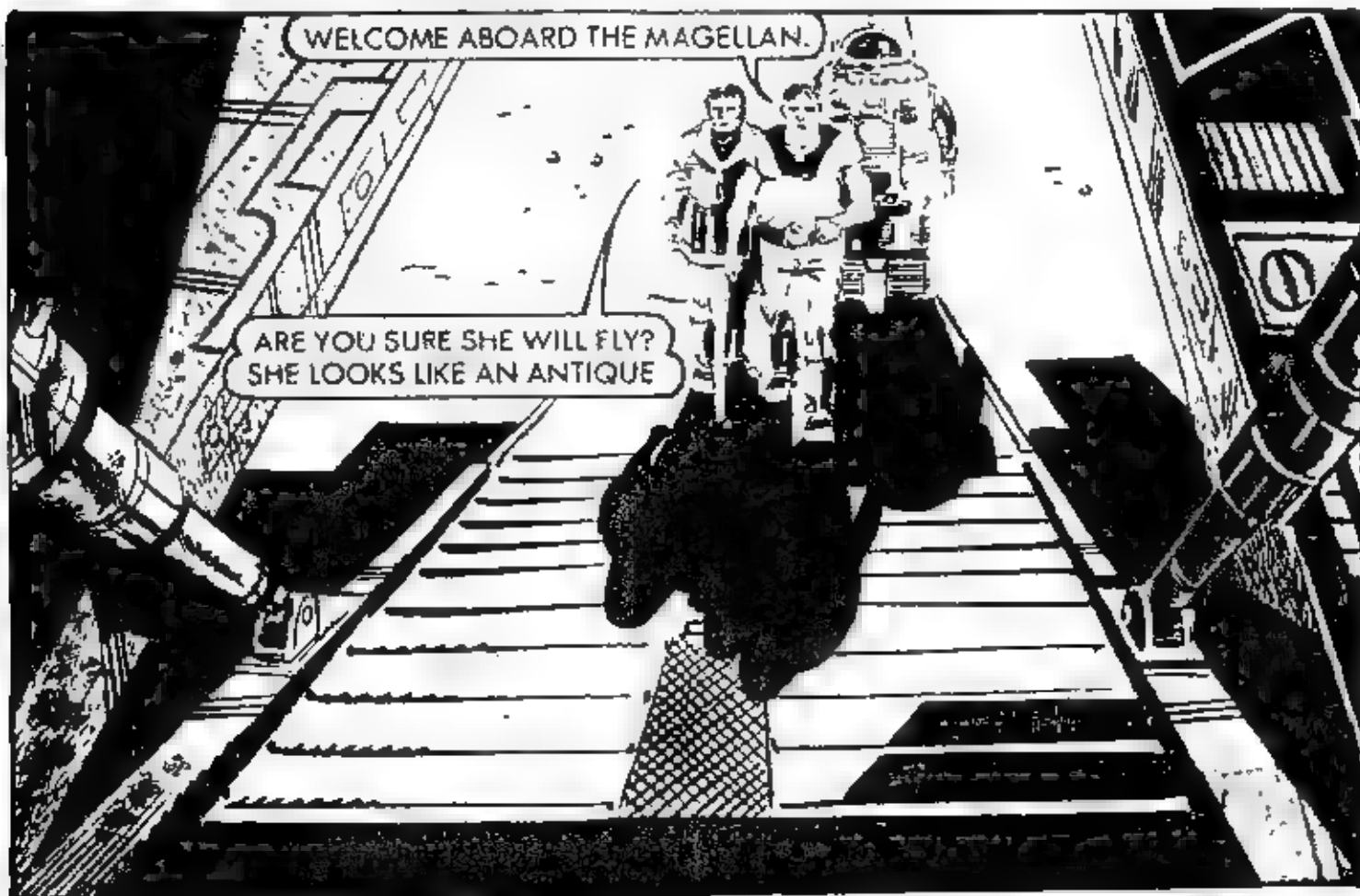
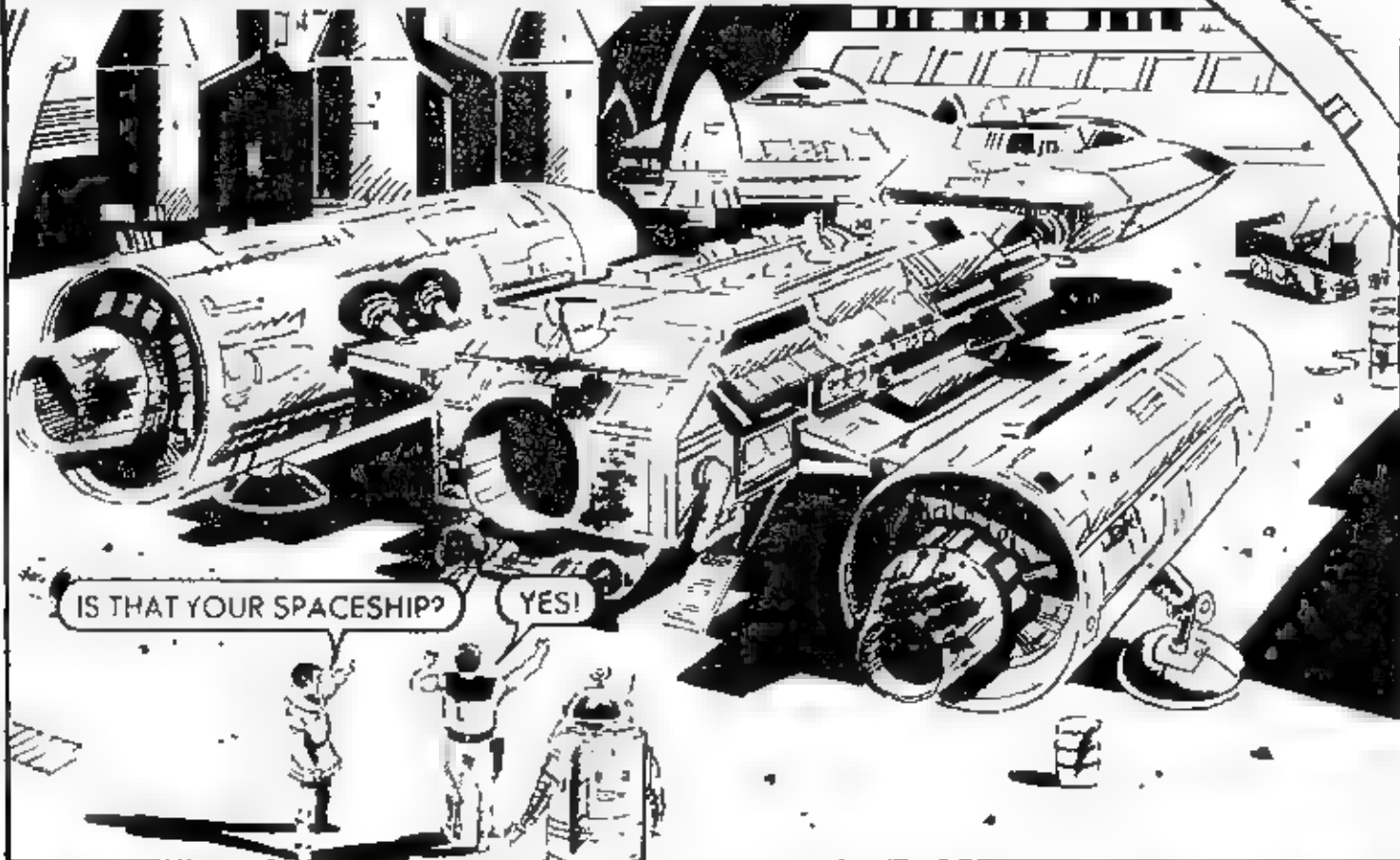






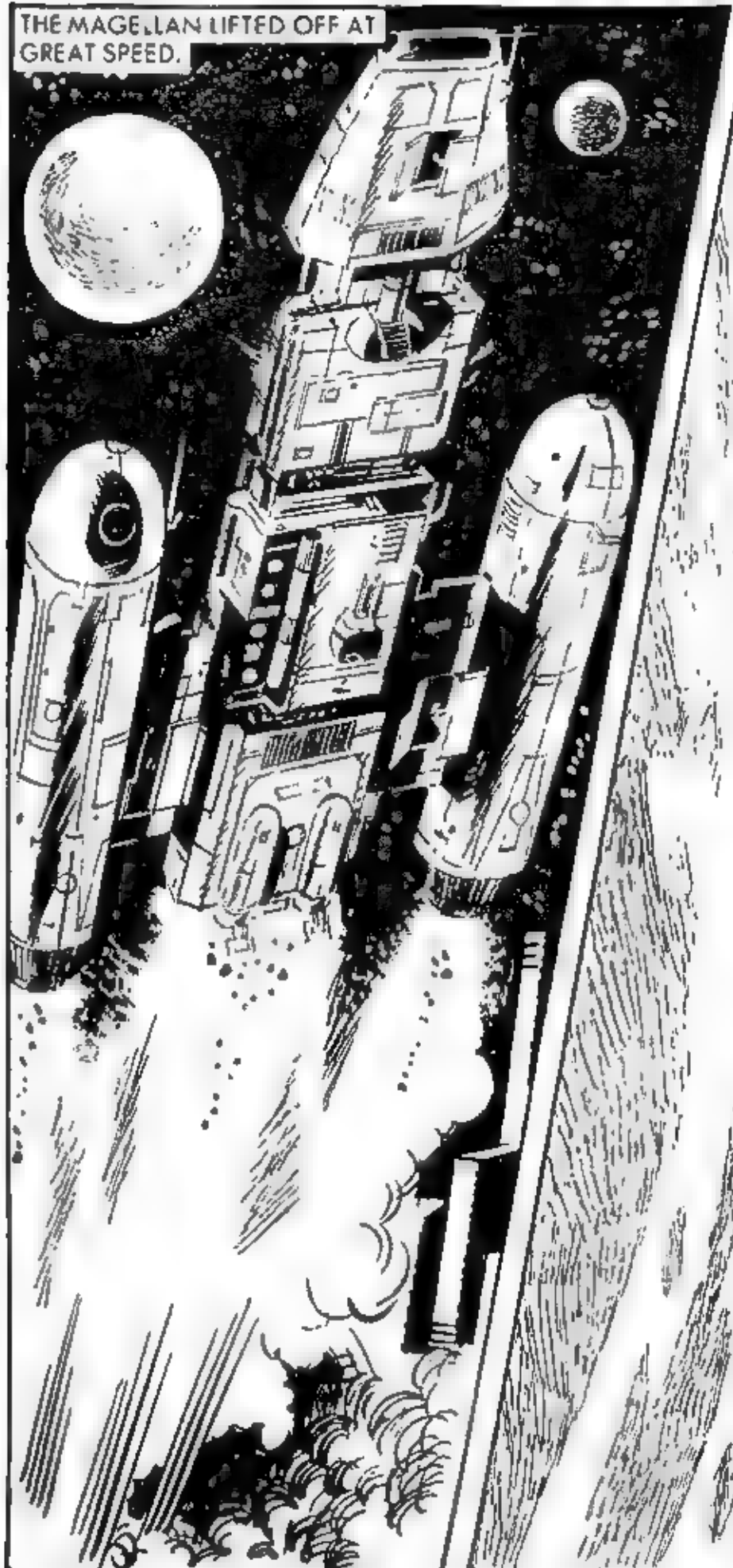


A FEW MINUTES LATER THEY ARRIVED AT LAUNCH DOCK 14





THE MAGELLAN LIFTED OFF AT
GREAT SPEED.



A FEW MINUTES LATER, THEY
WERE STREAKING AWAY FROM

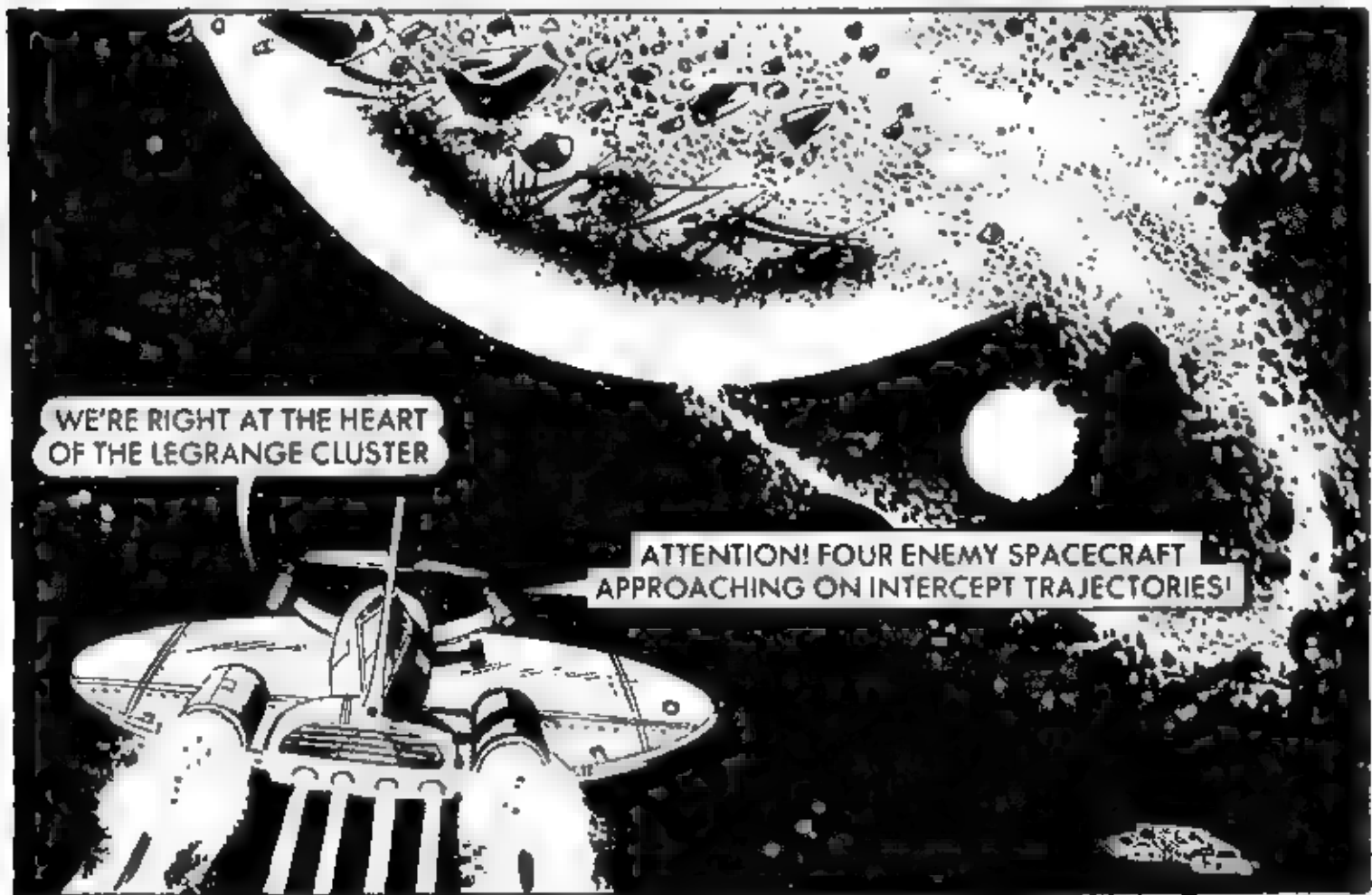
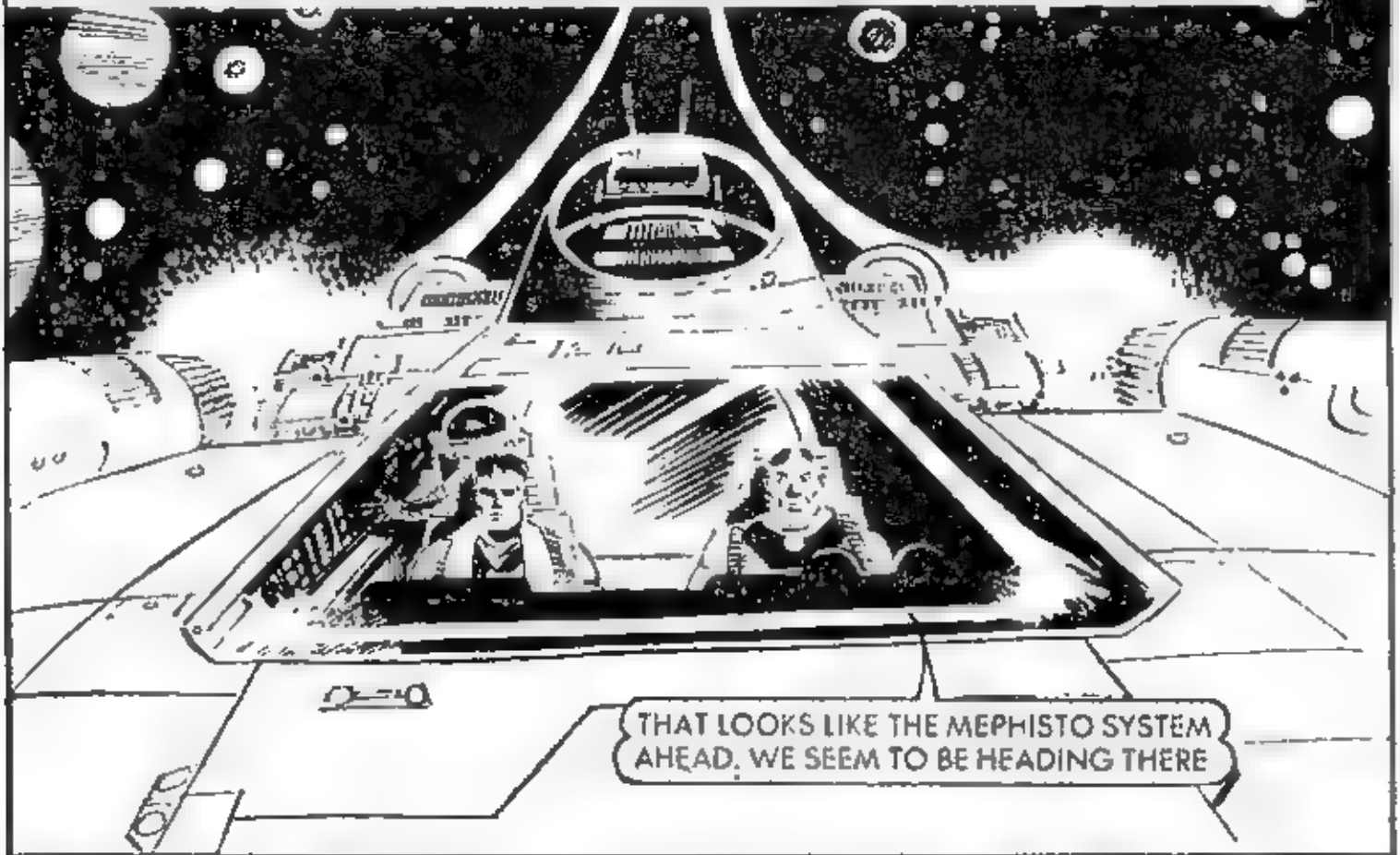
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HOW WAS THAT FOR
A SMOOTH TAKE OFF?





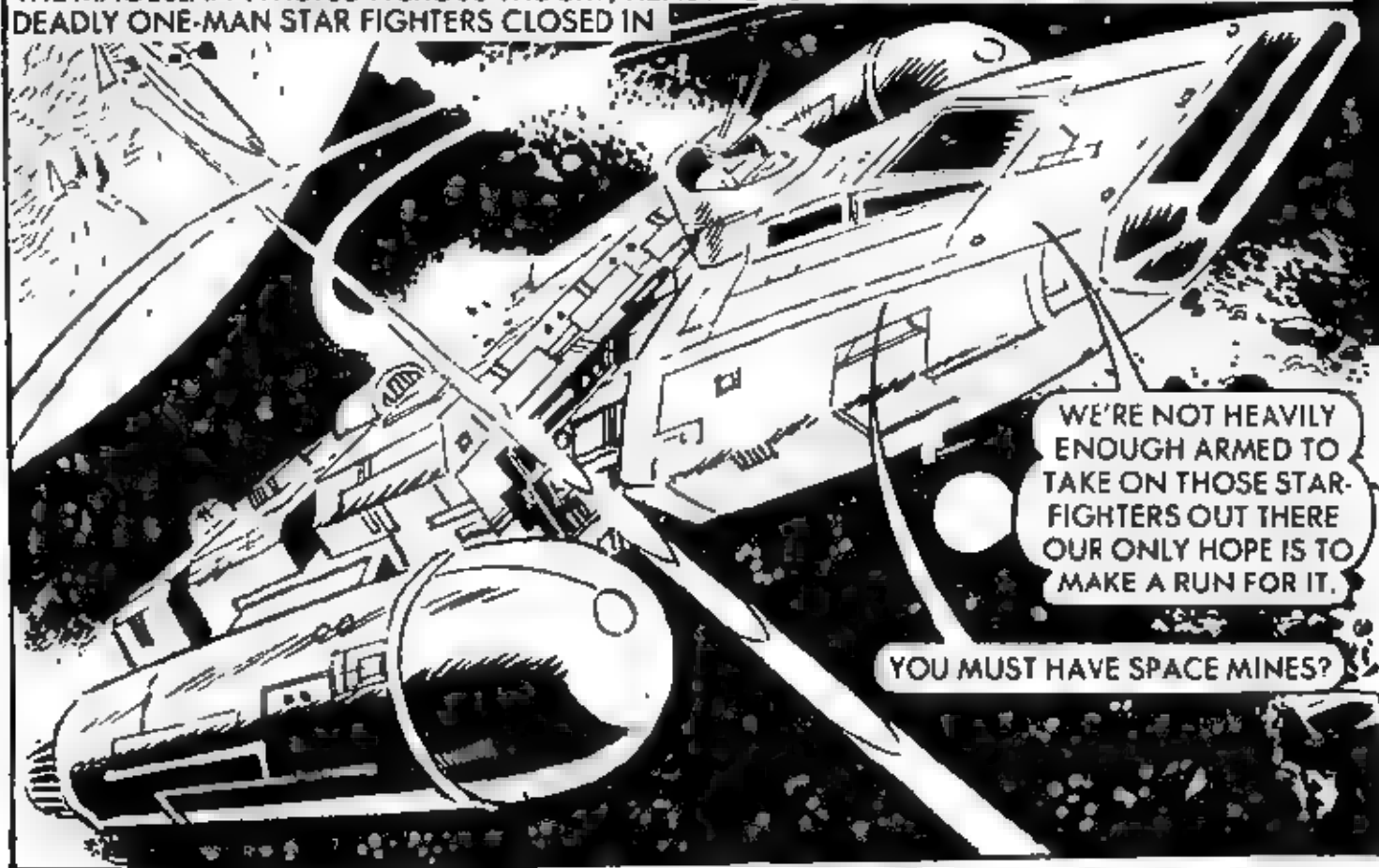
THE CHASE CONTINUED AND THE TWO SHIPS FLEW DEEPER INTO THE LEGRANGE CLUSTER



THEY'RE COMING UP FROM MEPHISTO. GET
READY TO TAKE EVASIVE ACTION INTO THE
ASTEROID BELT



THE MAGELLAN TWISTED ACROSS THE SKY, HEADING FOR MEPHISTO'S ASTEROID BELT AS FOUR
DEADLY ONE-MAN STAR FIGHTERS CLOSED IN



WE'RE NOT HEAVILY
ENOUGH ARMED TO
TAKE ON THOSE STAR-
FIGHTERS OUT THERE
OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO
MAKE A RUN FOR IT.

YOU MUST HAVE SPACE MINES?

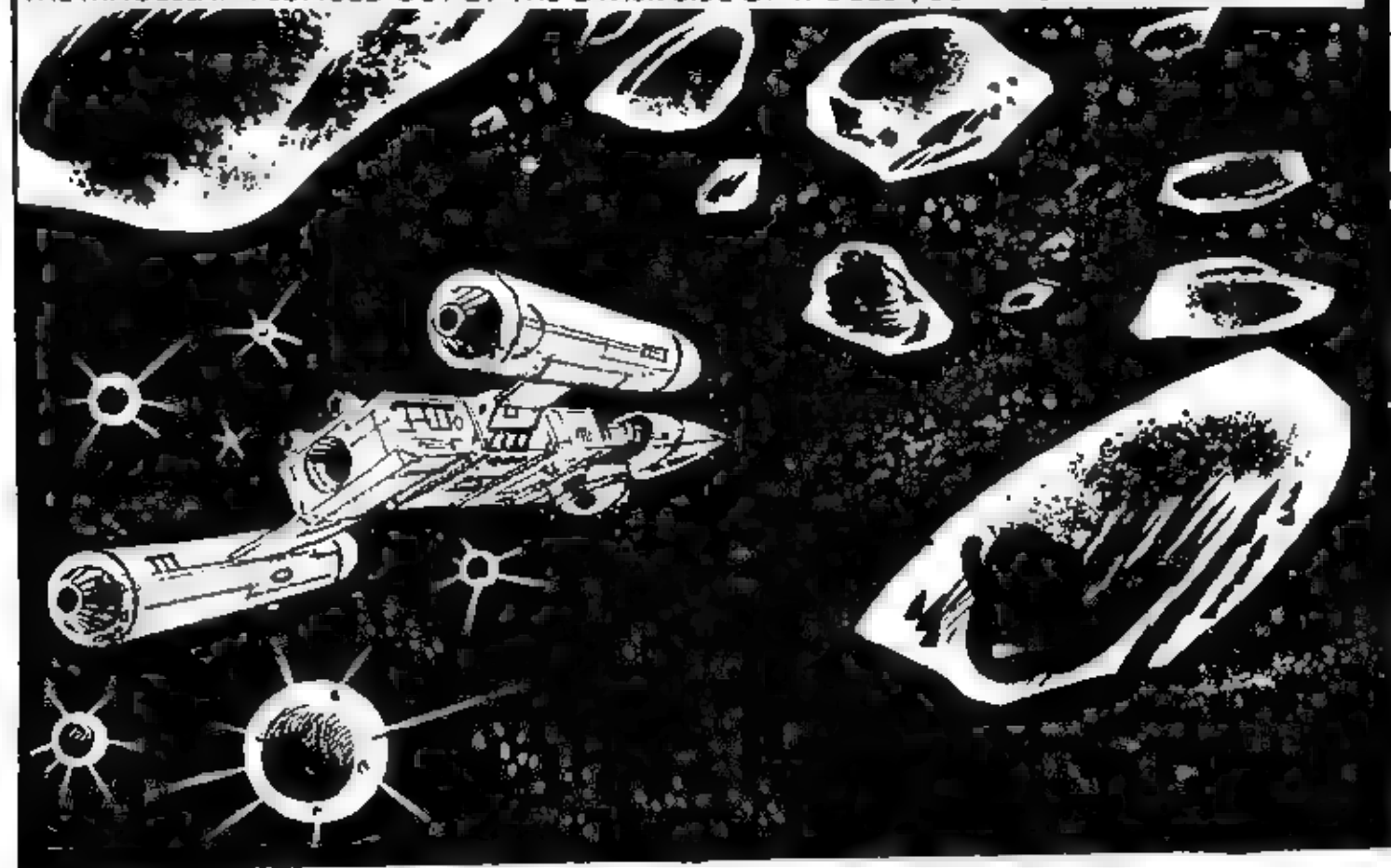


THE MAGELLAN ENTERED THE ASTEROID BELT JUST AS ONE OF THE STAR FIGHTERS BEGAN TO CLOSE IN



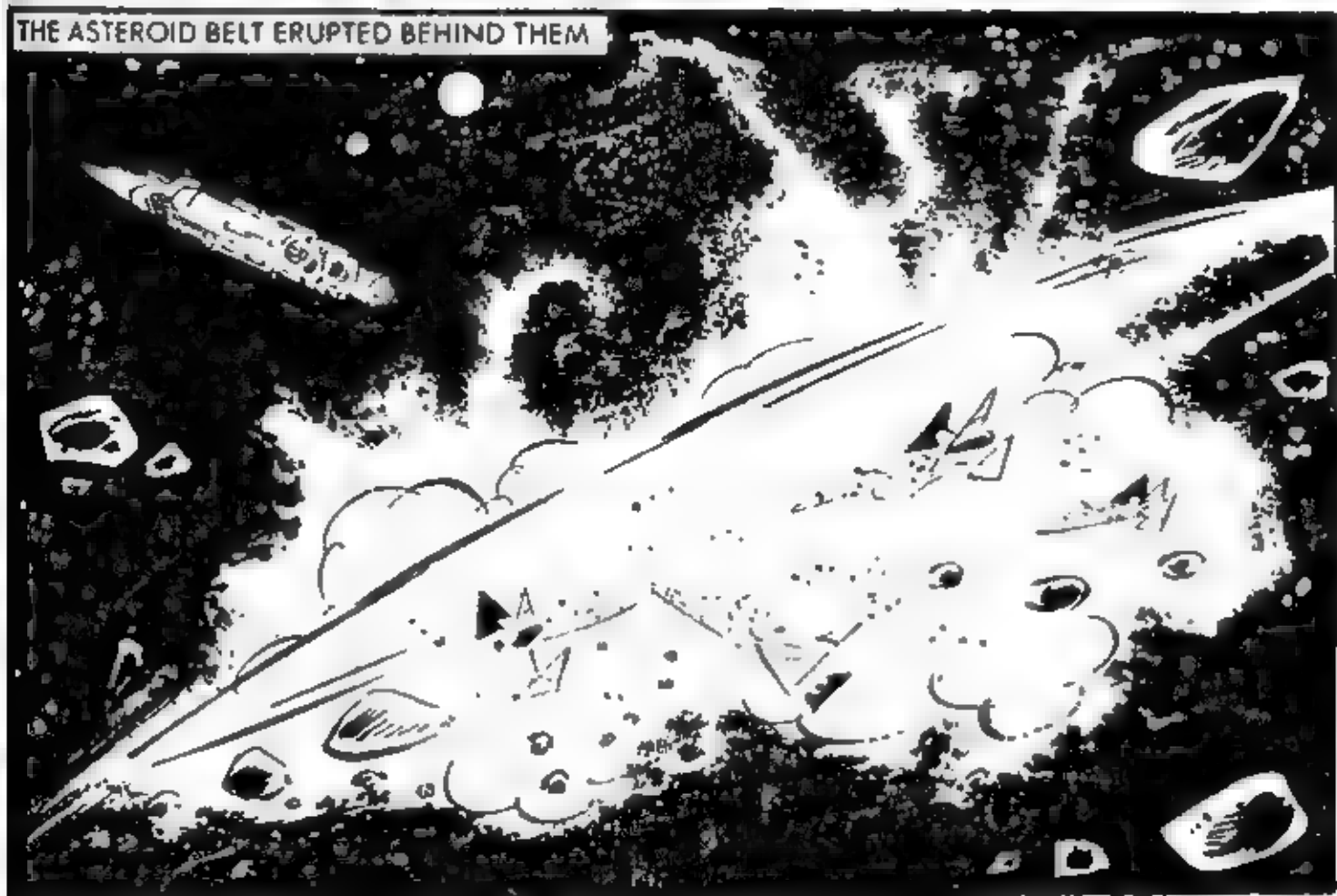


THE MAGELLAN PLUNGED OUT OF THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BELT, SOWING MINES IN HER WAKE





THE ASTEROID BELT ERUPTED BEHIND THEM



THE SHIP WAS THROWN ACROSS THE SKY BY THE BLAST.



THE EXPLOSION HAS SET OFF A CHAIN REACTION!
THE ASTEROIDS MUST HAVE BEEN ATOMICALLY
UNSTABLE.

IF WE'D BEEN ANY CLOSER, WE'D
HAVE GONE UP WITH THEM!



THE SHIP SPIRALLED DOWN TO MEPHISTO'S SURFACE.

THE PLANET IS ENTIRELY COVERED IN RAIN FORESTS. WE'VE PICKED UP SIGNS OF ONLY ONE ENCAMPMENT. IT HAS TO BE THE MERCENARY BASE

THE MAGELLAN TOUCHED DOWN.

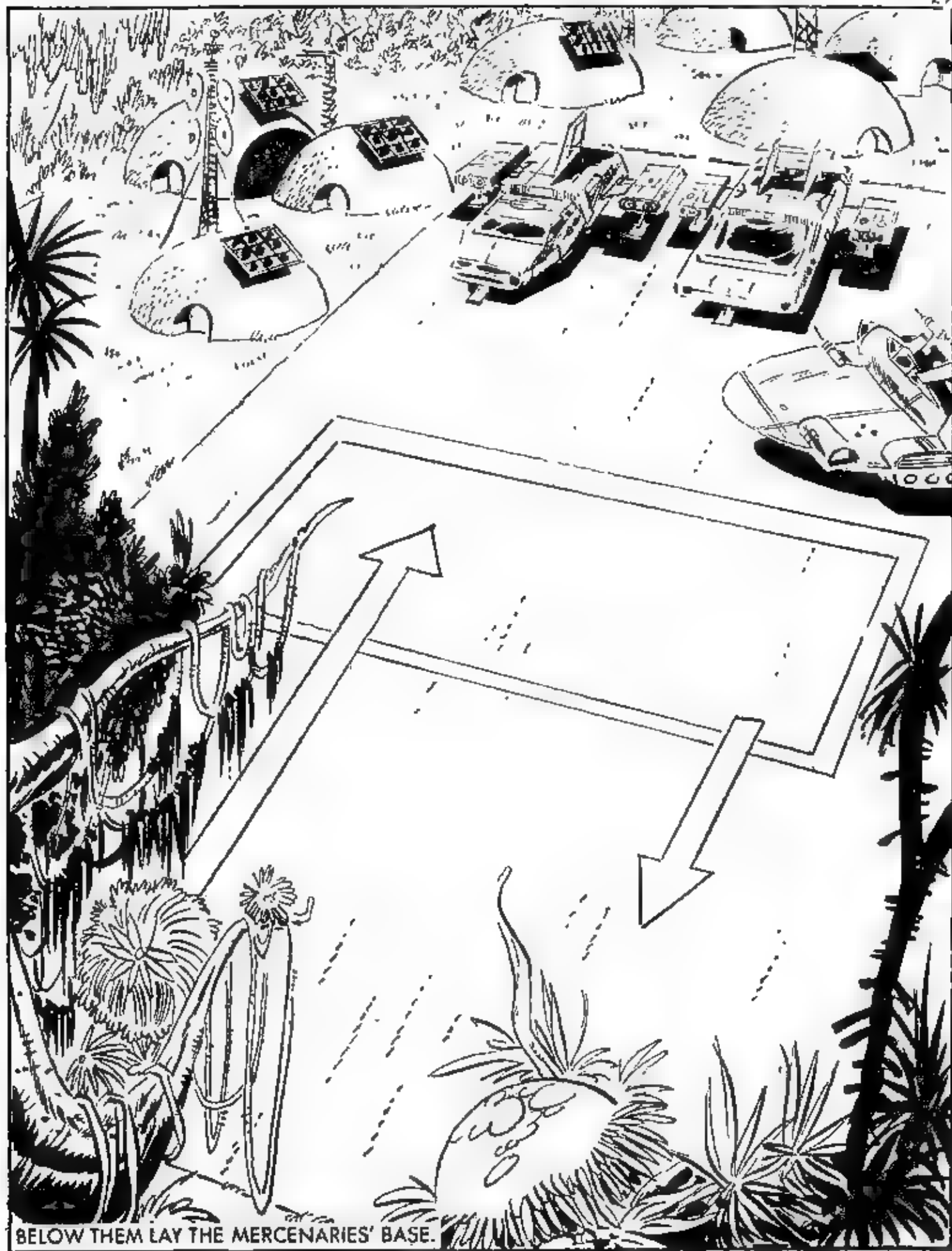
I'VE GOT SOME EQUIPMENT. LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THAT BASE

TAKE CARE OF THE SHIP, ALGY.

AFFIRMATIVE.









CARRYING THEIR MINES, THEY MOVED OFF ROUND THE FIELD.



I HEARD A NOISE.



TWO SAVAGE REPTILIAN CREATURES LEAPT OUT AT WINSTON.



HUSTEN HEARD WINSTON'S SHOUT.

WINSTON!





BEFORE HE COULD FIRE, HIS BLASTER WAS KNOCKED FROM HIS HAND BY A LASER RAY



A MERCENARY GUARD STEPPED OUT OF THE FOREST.

THIS TIME I SHALL NOT MISS...





THEY CARRIED ON WITH THEIR TASK.



THAT'S THE LAST OF THE
MINES. NOW FOR THE DOMES

















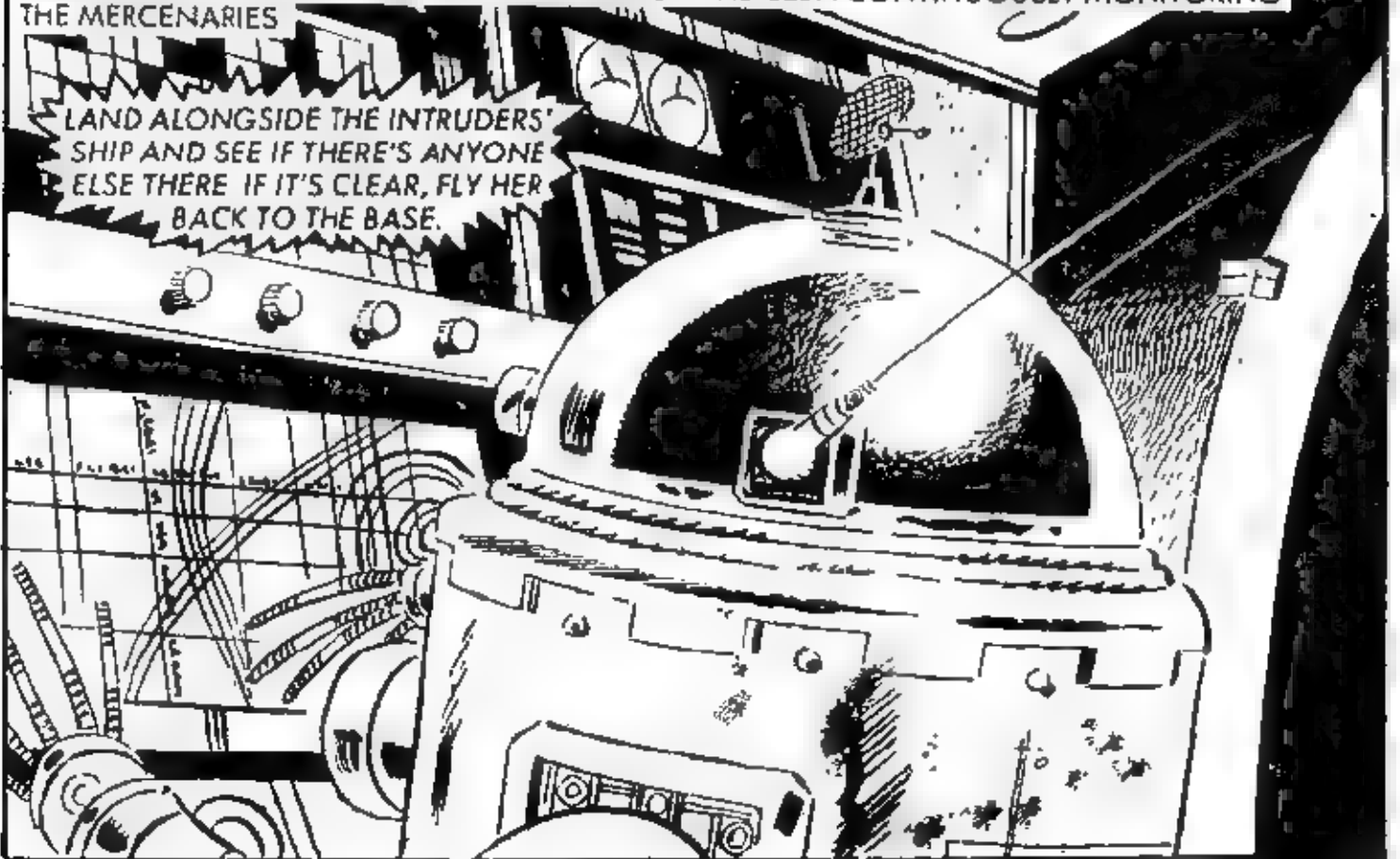


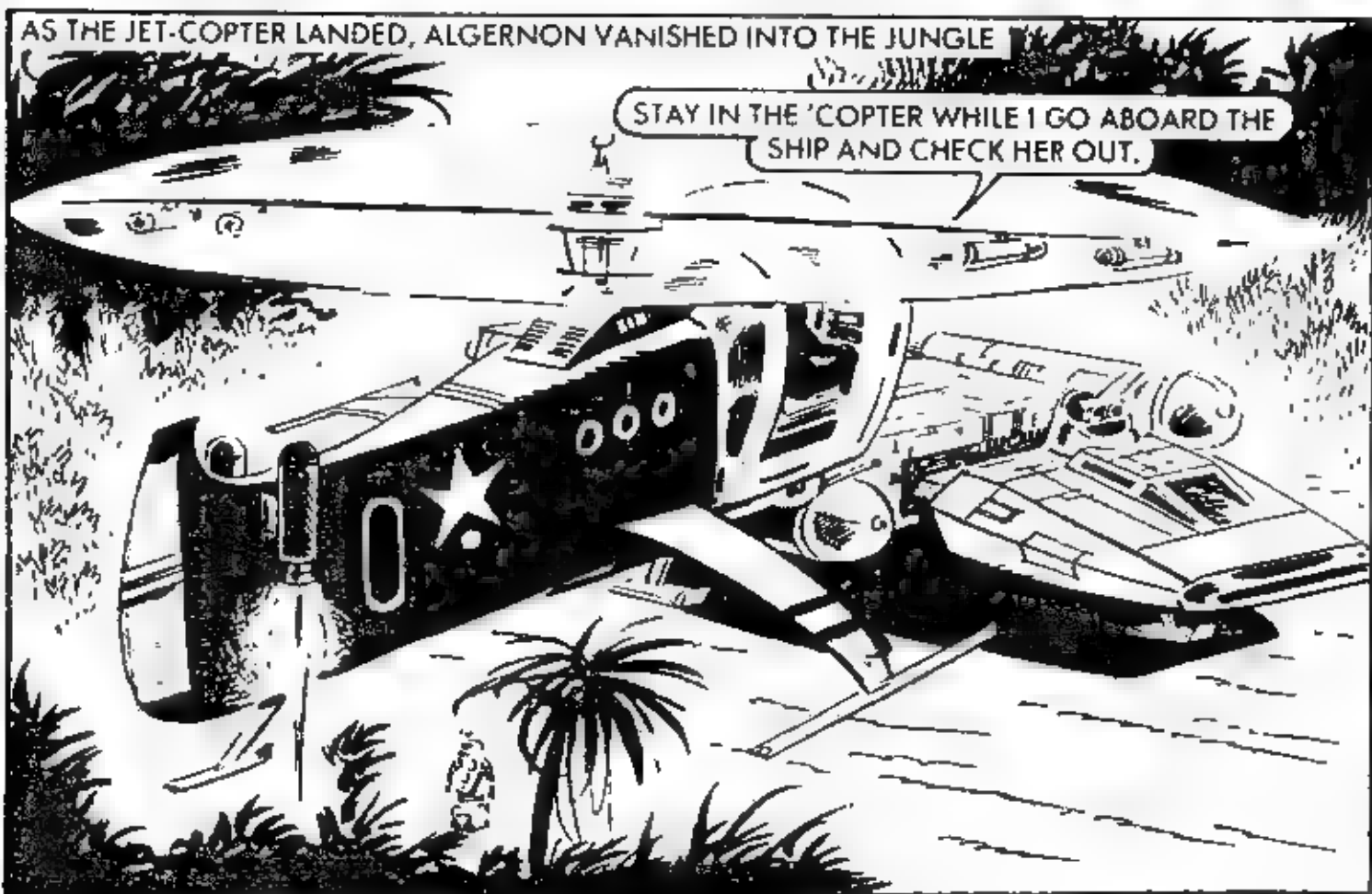
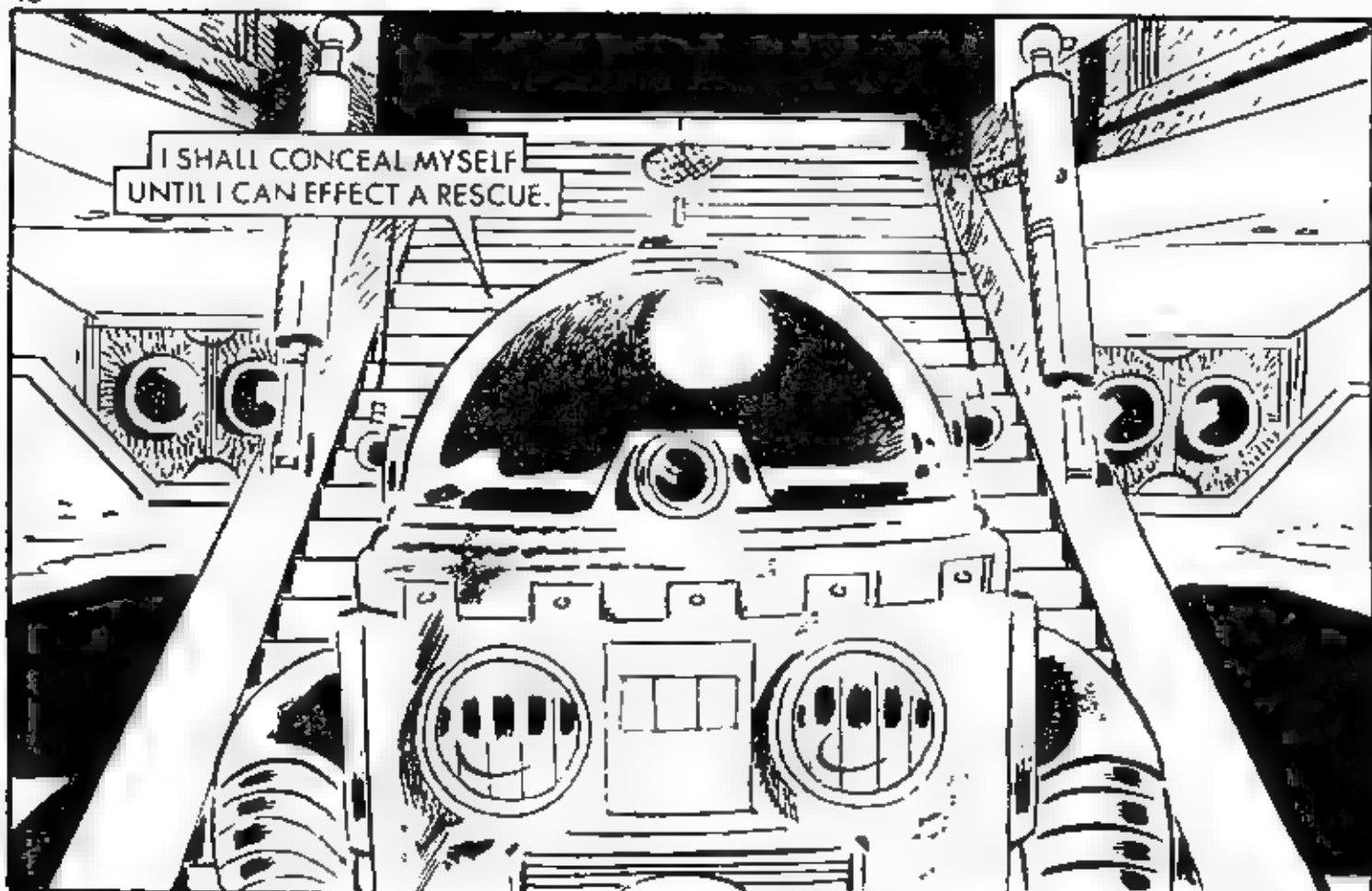
TWO OF THE MERCENARIES TOOK OFF IN A JET-COPTER



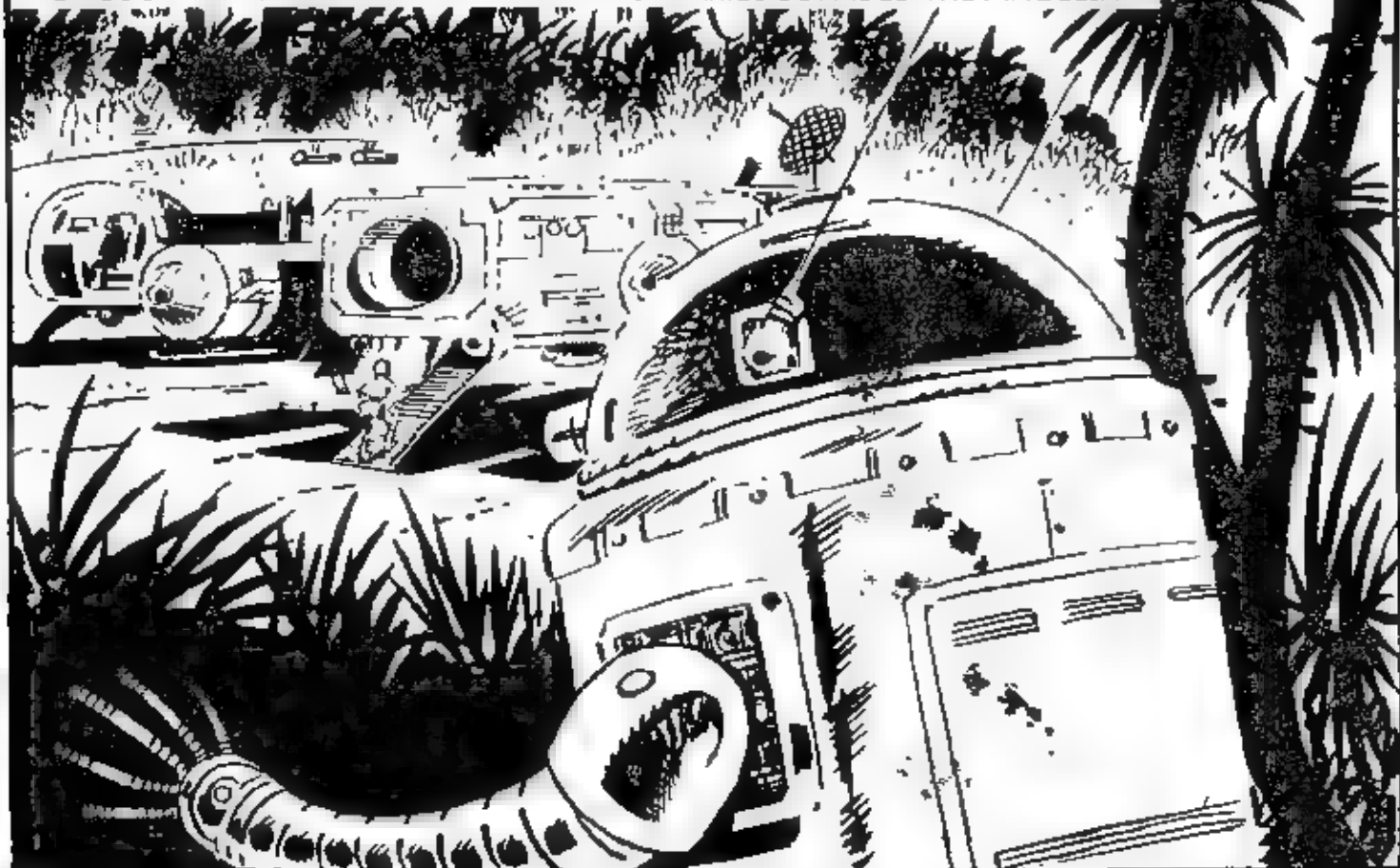


INSIDE THE MAGELLAN, ALGERNON THE ROBOT HAD BEEN CONTINUOUSLY MONITORING THE MERCENARIES





THE ROBOT WATCHED AS ONE OF THE MERCENARIES BOARDED THE MAGELAN



IT'S CLEAR HEAD BACK TO BASE, I'LL FLY THIS
HEAP IN AFTER YOU



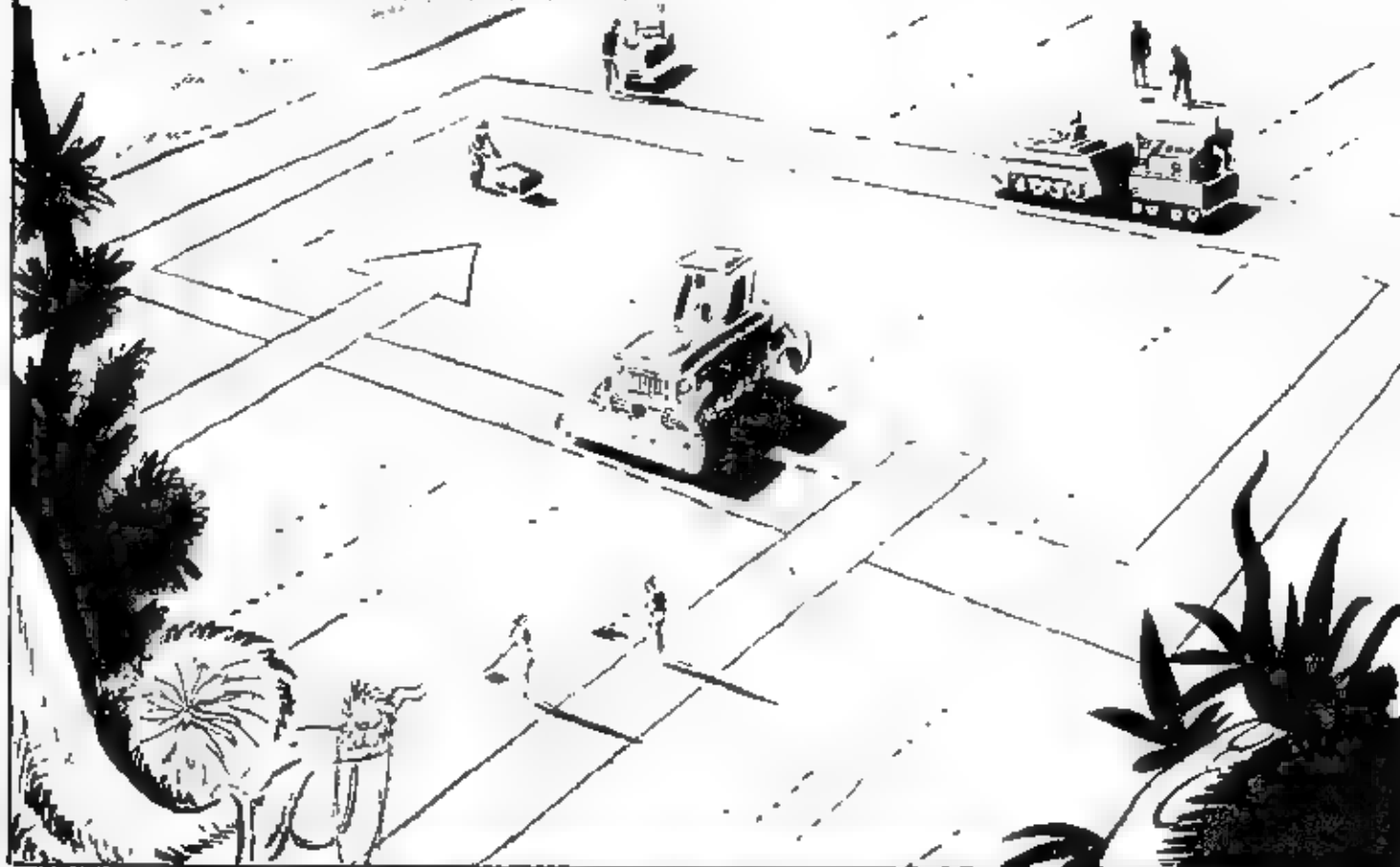
AS THE MAGELAN TOUCHED DOWN AT THE MERCENARY BASE, WINSTON WATCHED FROM THE PRISON DOME

THEY'VE GOT THE SHIP... AND
ALGY ON IT



THE BASE HAS STARTED TO SHOW SIGNS OF
ACTIVITY, HUSTEN.

THE LANDING AREA WAS BEING CLEARED.



HUSTEN HAD RECOVERED

THERE MUST BE SOME
WAY OUT OF HERE

THE DOOR'S ON AN ELECTRONIC
LOCK THERE'S NO WAY OF
SHORTING THE POWER SUPPLY.





A LARGE SPACESHIP HOVERED OVER THE BASE AND PREPARED TO LAND.

IT'S A SAGASSAN
BATTLE CRUISER!

AS THE CRAFT TOUCHED
DOWN, SAGASSAN
WARLORDS GRAVBEAMED TO
THE PLANET'S SURFACE



HUSTEN RECOGNISED THE SAGASSANS.

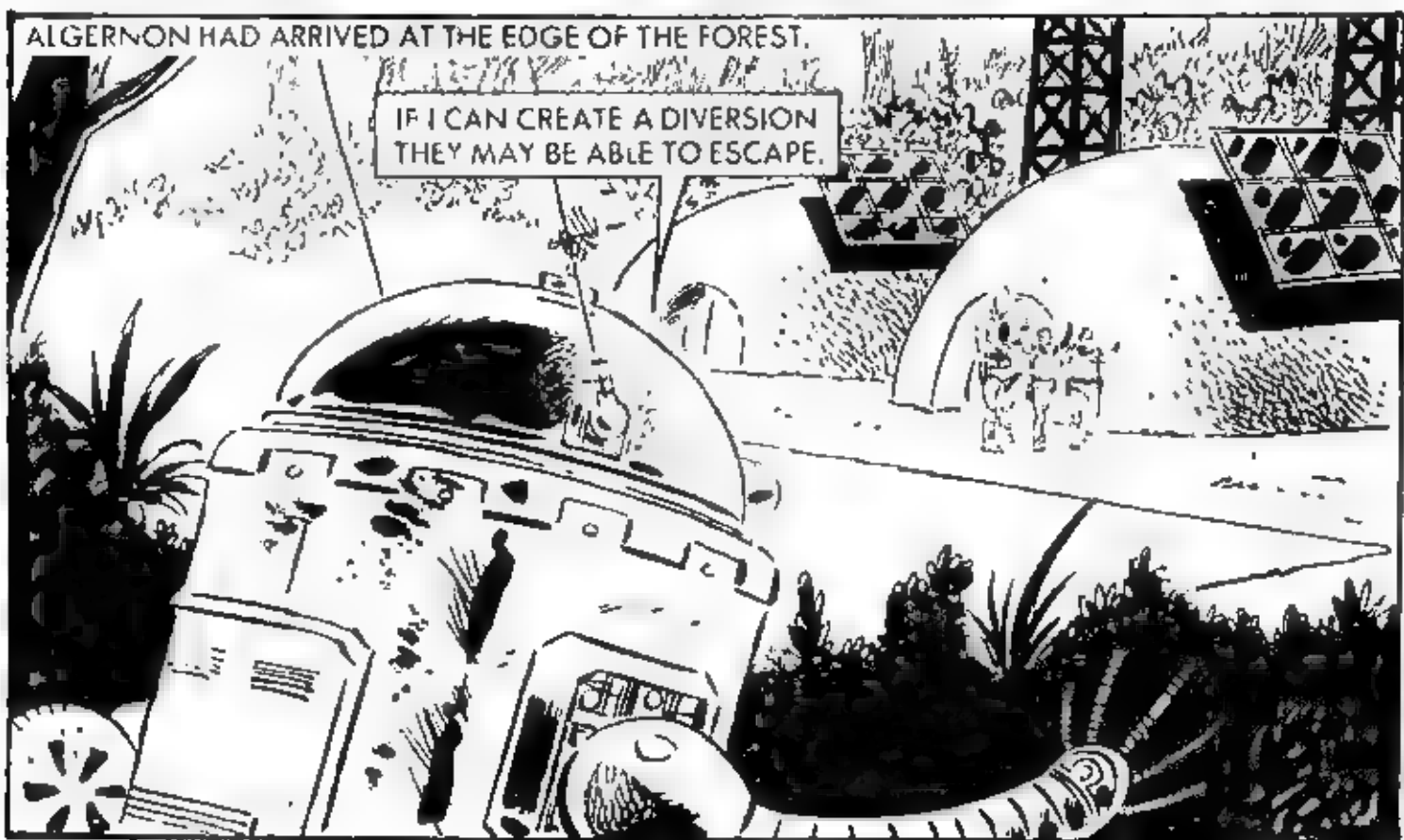
THEITRUS! HE'S THE SAGASSAN WARLORD, AND A RUTHLESS KILLER. THE TRUCE HE SIGNED WITH EARTH MUST HAVE BEEN AN EXCUSE TO RE-ARM FOR WAR. NOW HE MUST BE HERE TO BUY THE POSITRONIC CANNON.

THE DOOR OPENED

COME WITH ME—CORRIGAN WANTS TO SEE YOU.

THEY ENTERED THE DOME

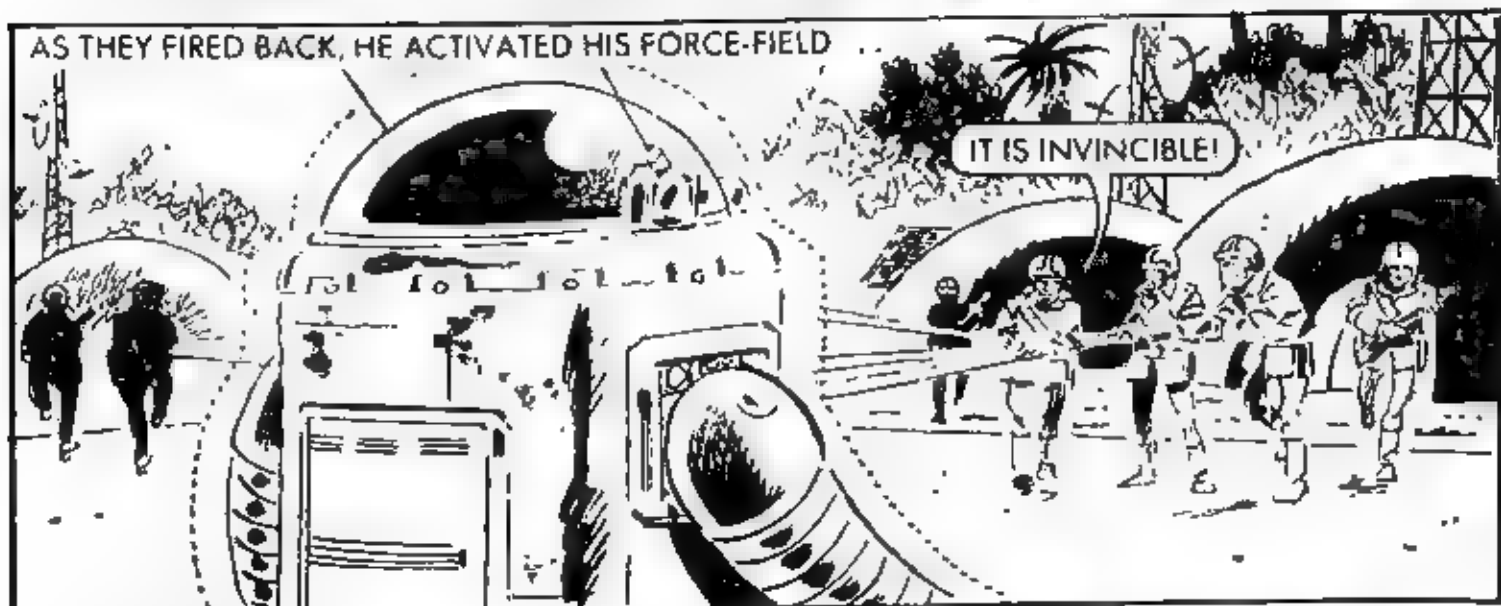
THESE ARE OUR TWO INTRUDERS.



THE ROBOT TURNED ON TWO OF THE BASE GUARDS, FIRING HIS CHEST-BLASTER



AS THEY FIRED BACK, HE ACTIVATED HIS FORCE-FIELD



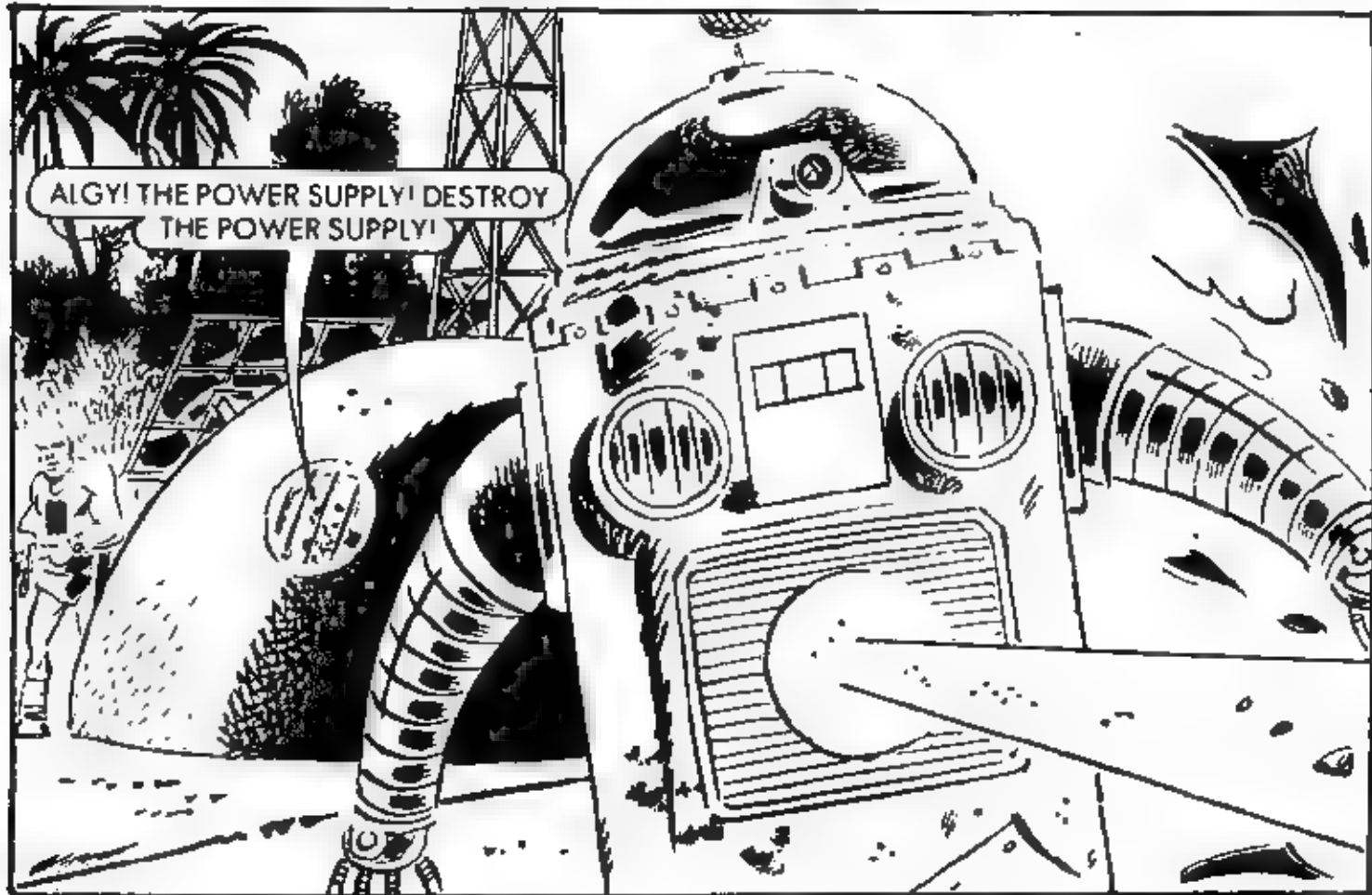
HUSTEN AND WINSTON WERE PUT IN A DOME WHILE ALGY WAS BEING DEALT WITH

YOUR ROBOT WILL BE DESTROYED IF WE DON'T
DO SOMETHING.

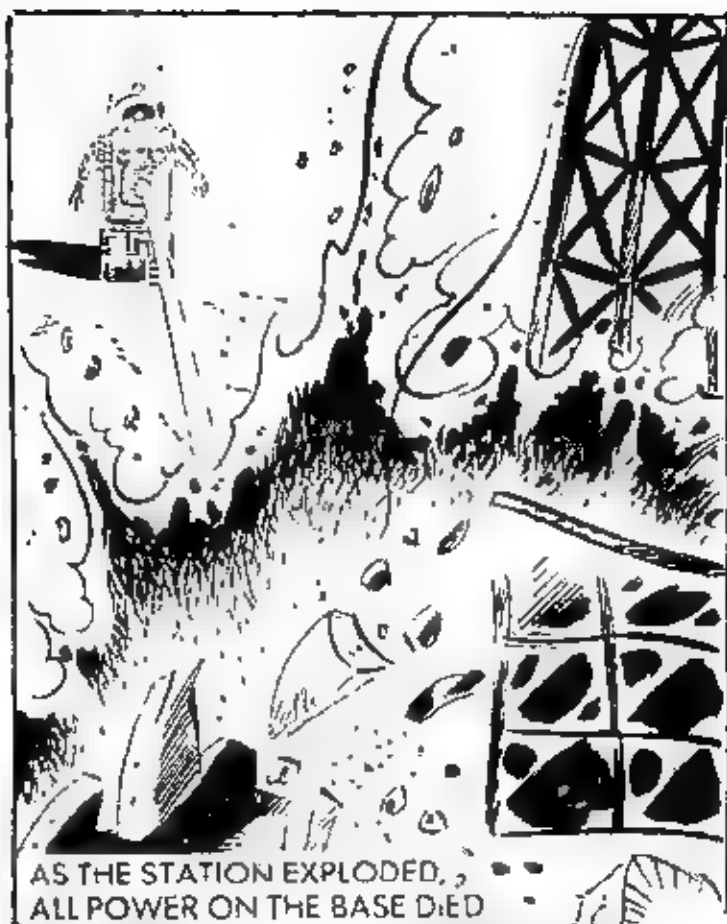
HE'S SAFE INSIDE HIS FORCE FIELD HE'S MORE
LIKELY TO DESTROY THE BASE TO GET US OUT I'VE
AN IDEA



ALGY! THE POWER SUPPLY! DESTROY
THE POWER SUPPLY!



ALGY HEADED FOR THE BASE'S SOLAR POWER STATION



AS THE STATION EXPLODED, ALL POWER ON THE BASE DIED

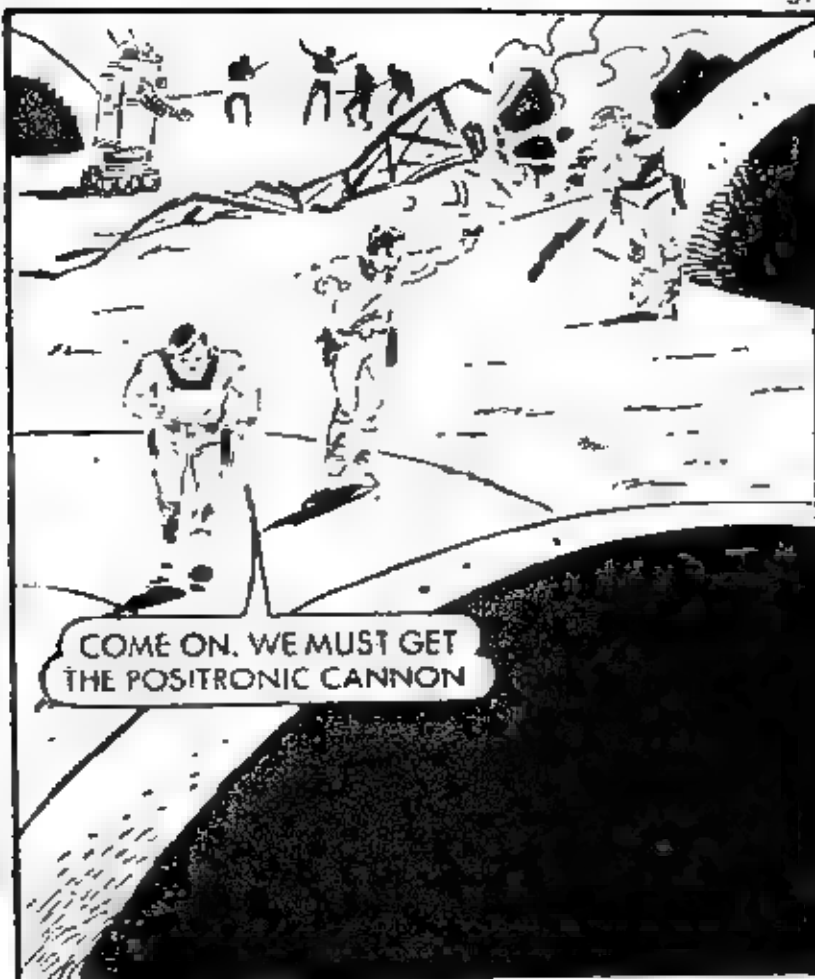


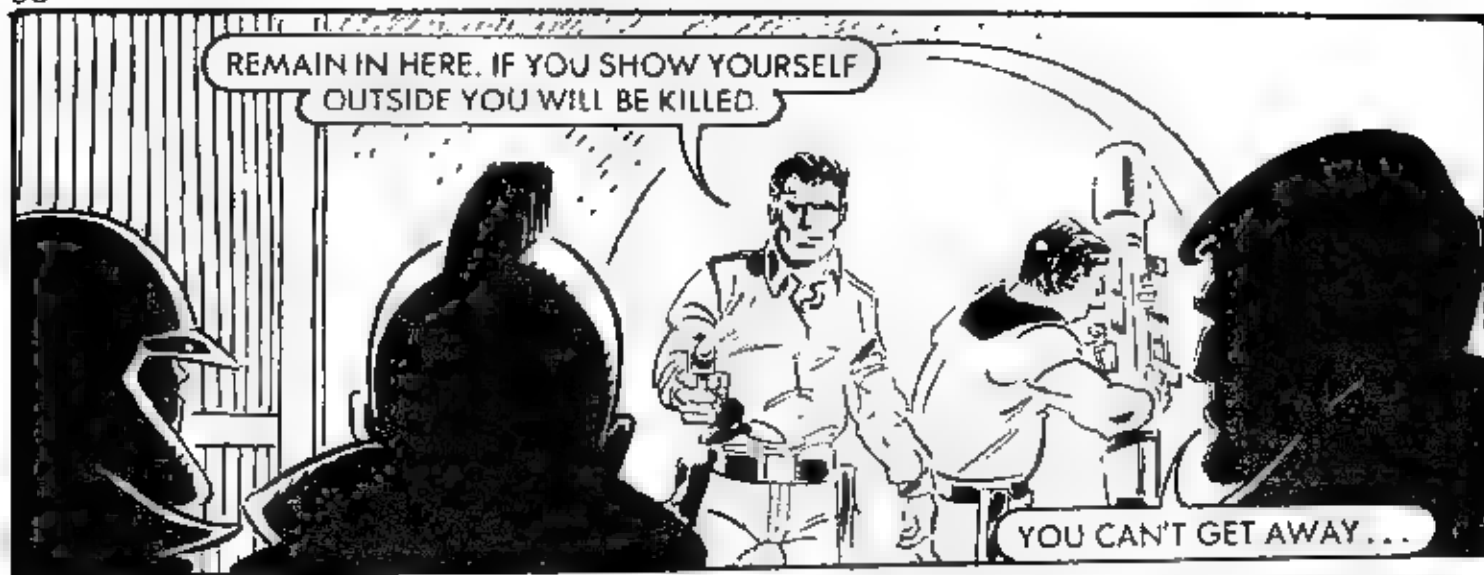
THE LOCK'S OFF! COME ON.



NOT THIS TIME...

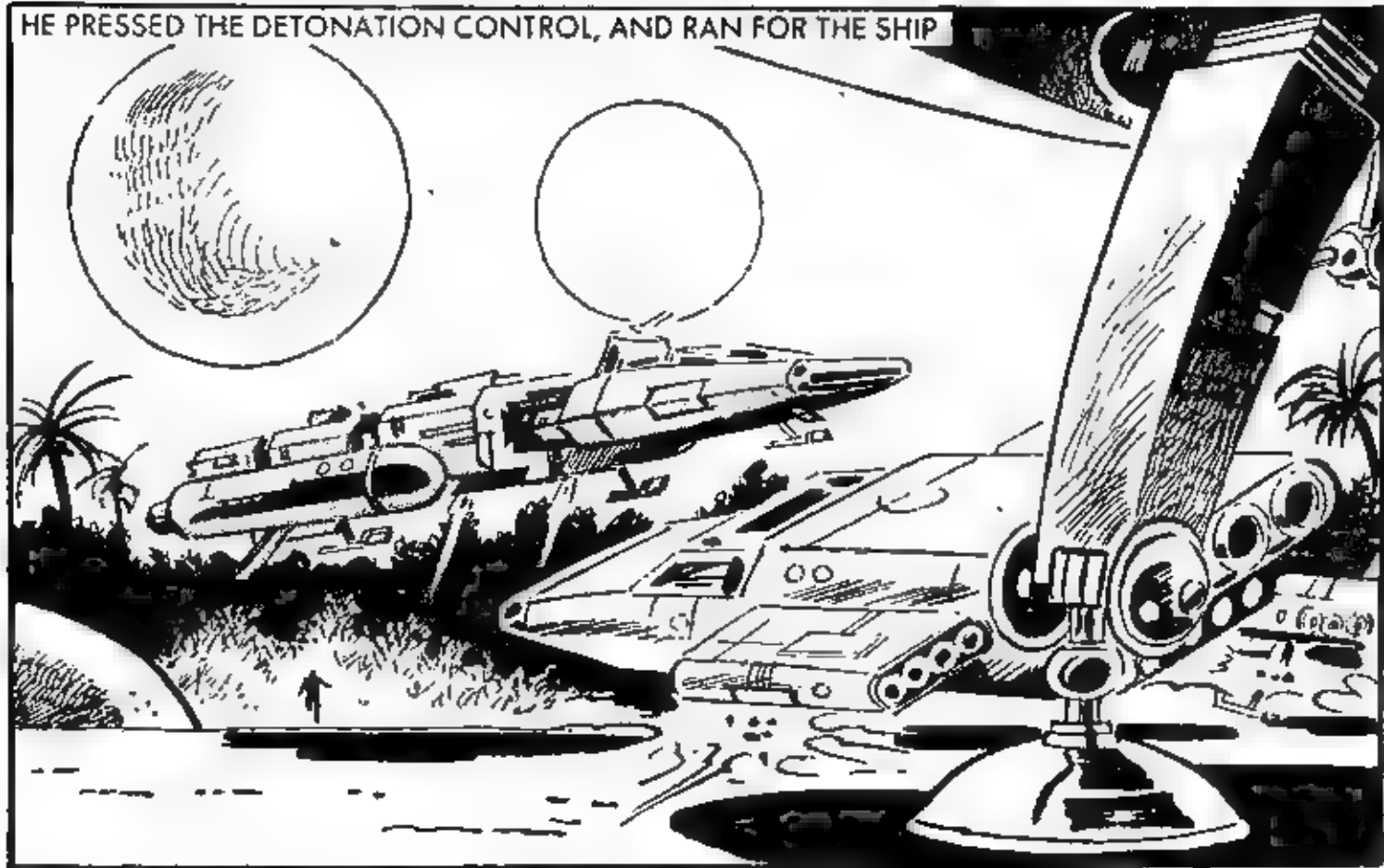
HUSTEN GRABBED VALTHAR'S LASER
AND FIRED







HE PRESSED THE DETONATION CONTROL, AND RAN FOR THE SHIP



HUSTEN LEAPT ABOARD AT THE LAST SECOND.

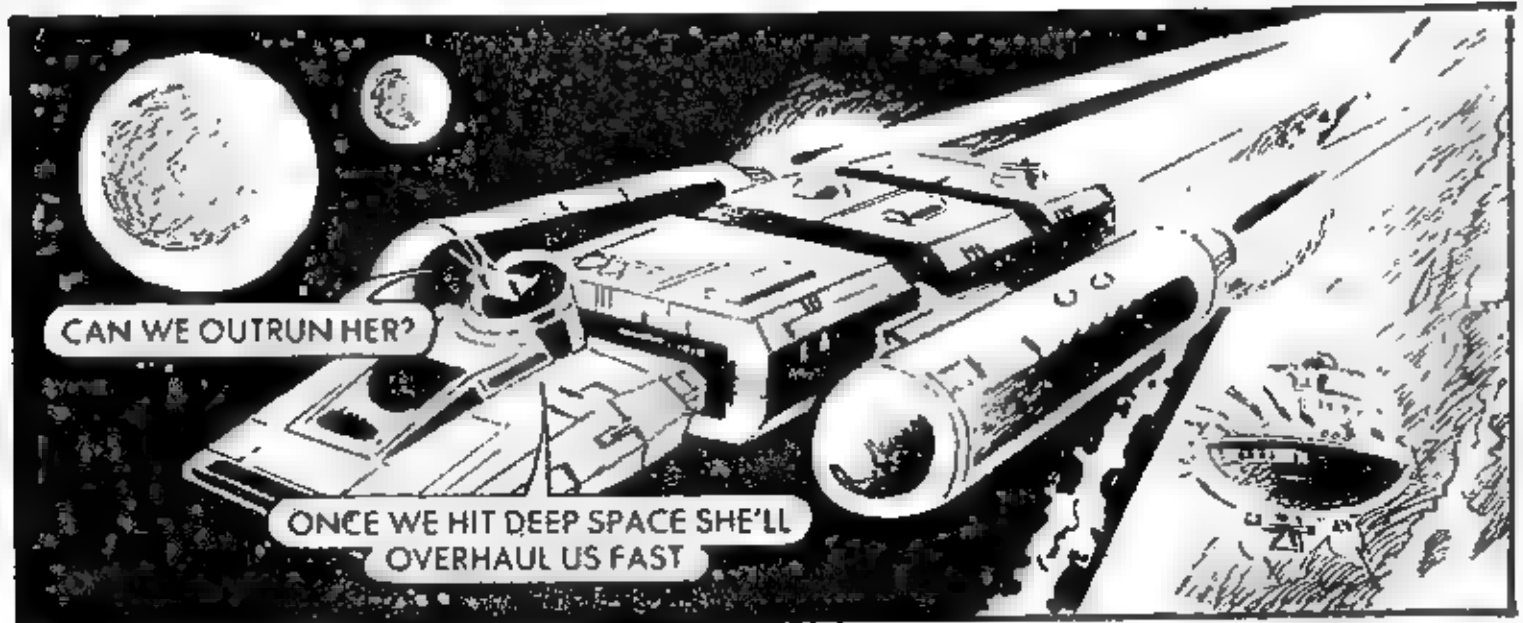
NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE

THEY'VE SABOTAGED OUR SHIPS!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY

MY SHIP IS STILL SAFE

SEAL THE HATCH AND
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE

THE SAGASSAN SHIP BLASTED IN PURSUIT.

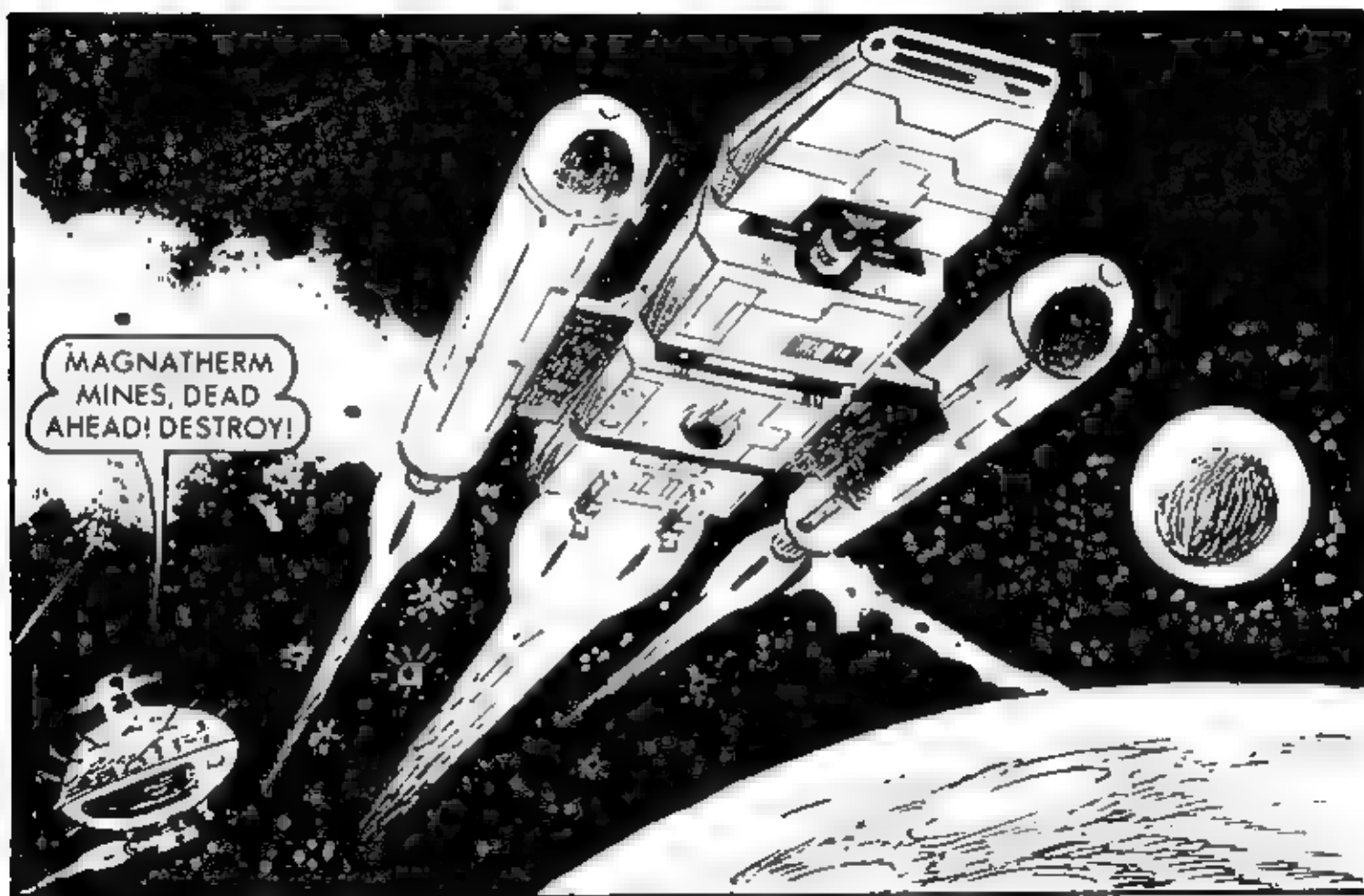


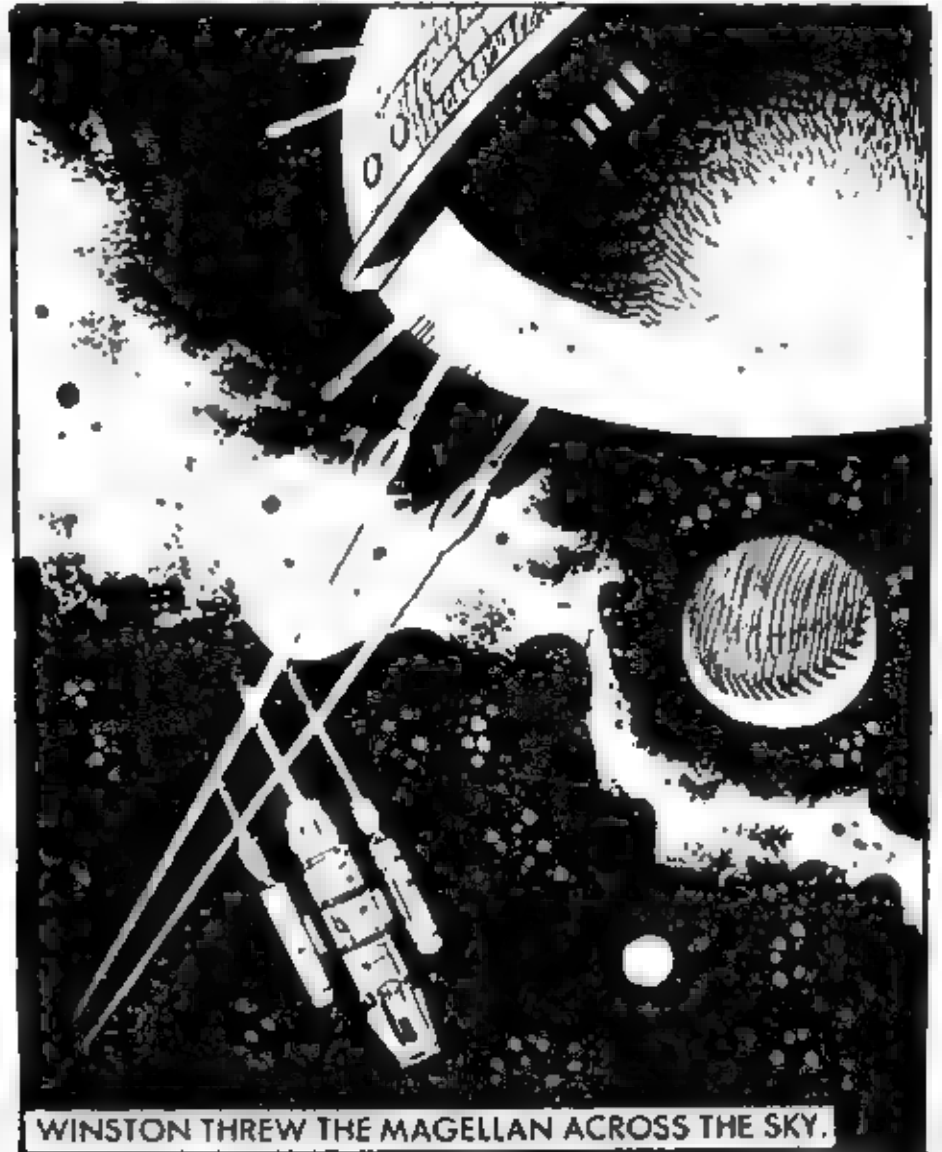
THEY'RE BEGINNING
TO CLOSE IN

THERE'S ONE CLUSTER OF
MAGNATHERM MINES LEFT. THEY
MAY WORK



MAGNATHERM
MINES, DEAD
AHEAD! DESTROY!





THIS IS THE ONLY ANSWER .. THE
POSITRONIC CANNON HOLD HER
STEADY WHILE I OPEN THE AIR LOCK

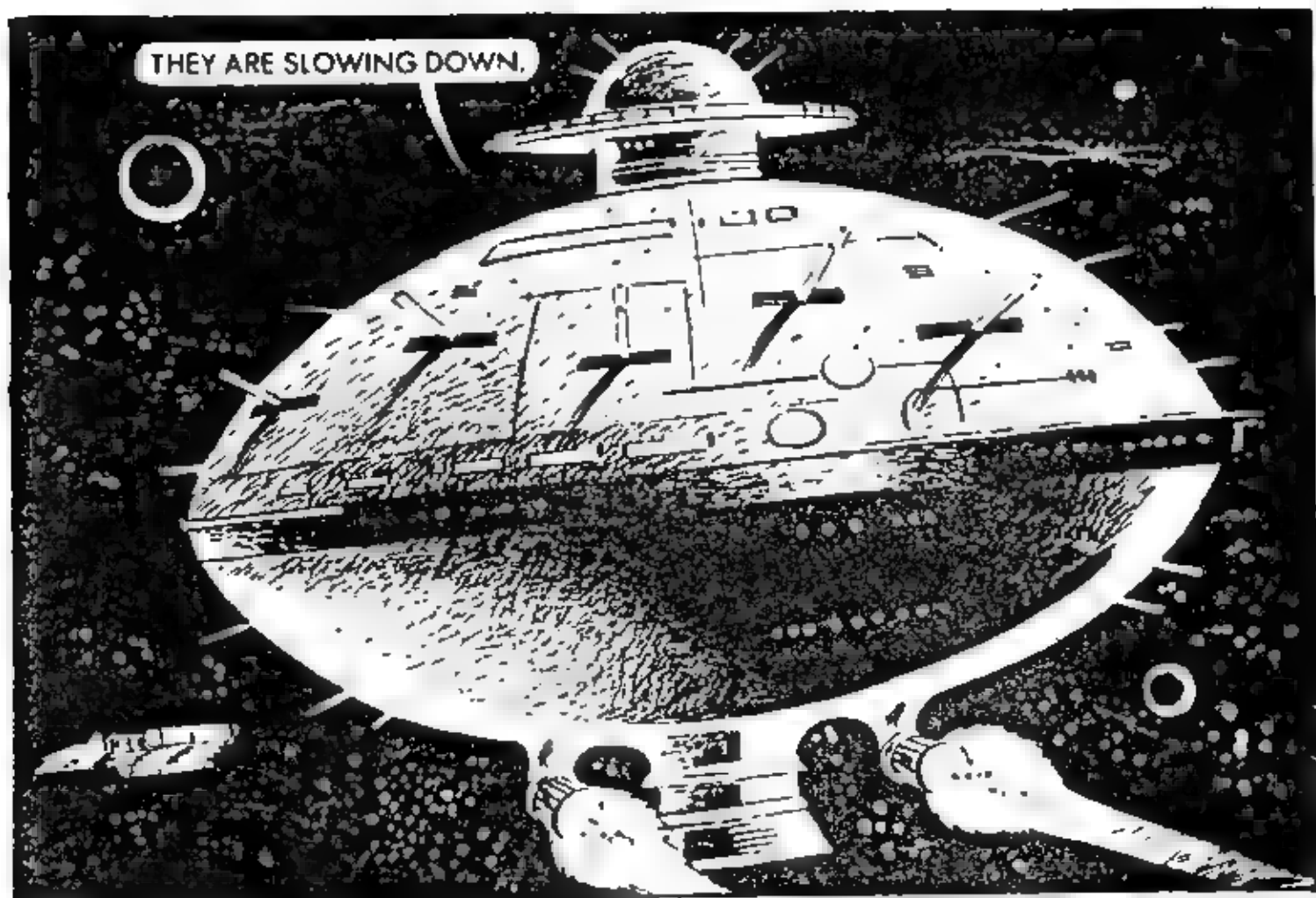


I HOPE YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE DOING

HUSTEN ENTERED THE AIRLOCK AND
CLIPPED HIS SAFETY LINE ..



THEY ARE SLOWING DOWN.



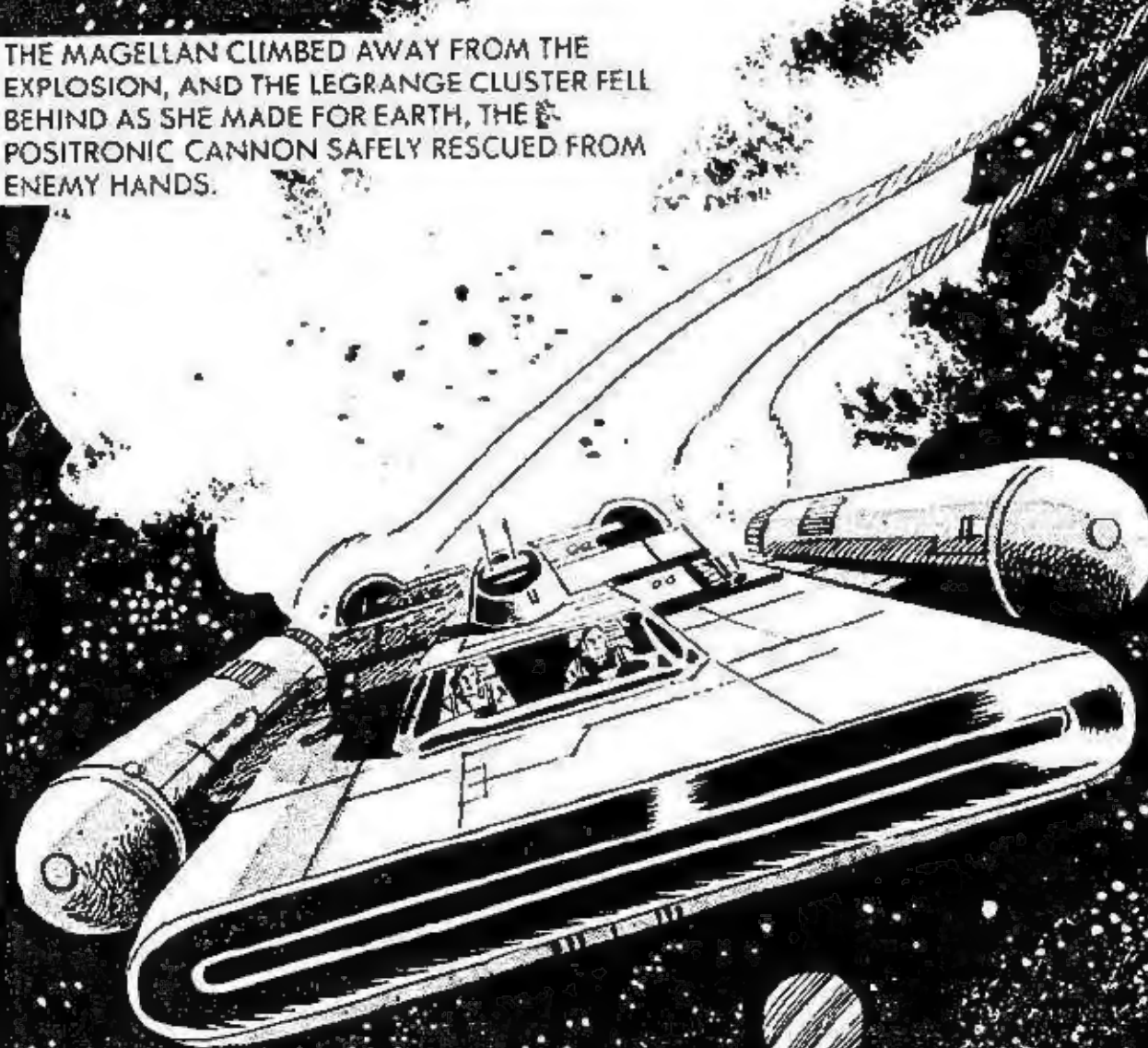


THE BATTLECRUISER WAS RIPPED APART BY A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION.

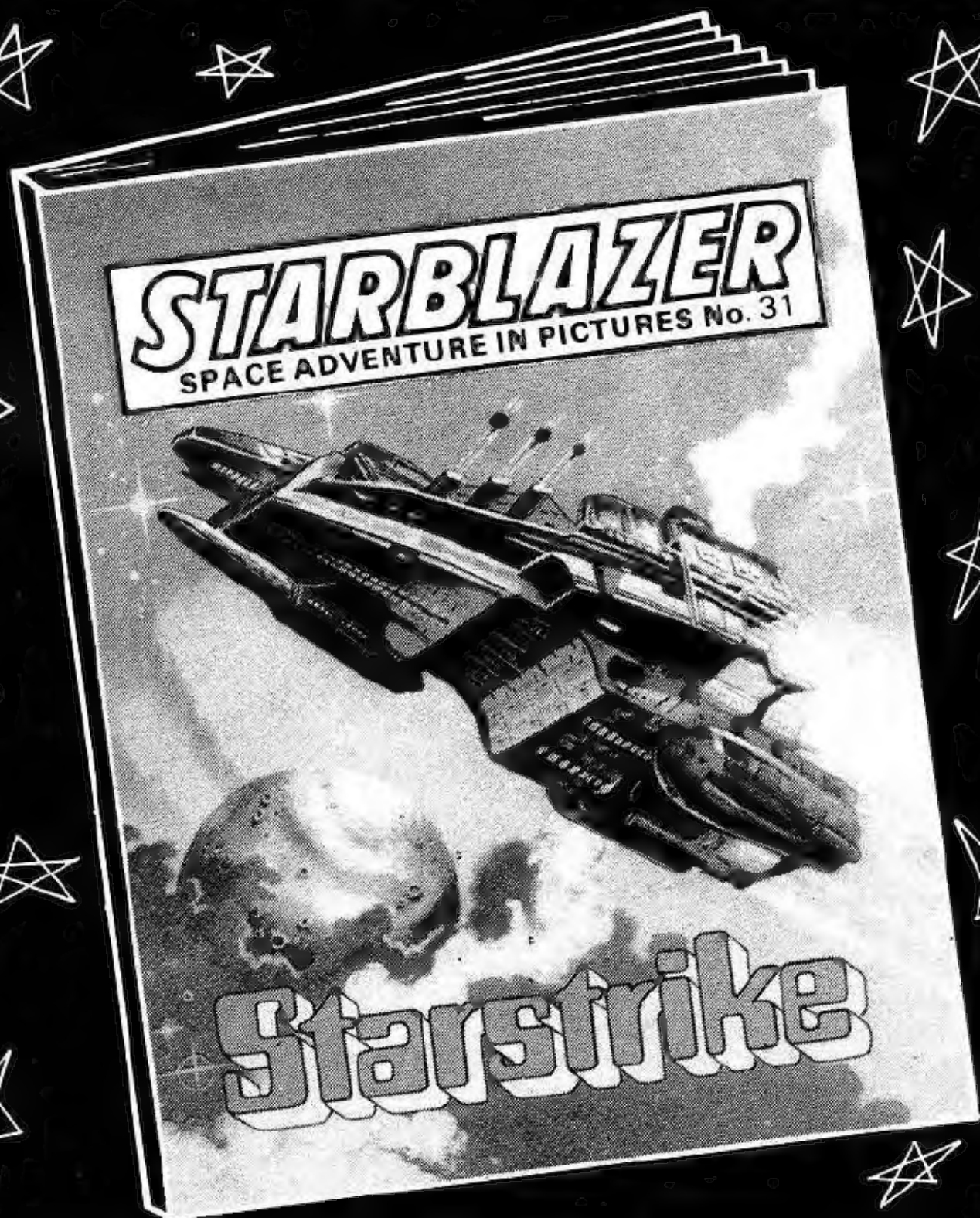




THE MAGELLAN CLIMBED AWAY FROM THE EXPLOSION, AND THE LEGRANGE CLUSTER FELL BEHIND AS SHE MADE FOR EARTH, THE POSITRONIC CANNON SAFELY RESCUED FROM ENEMY HANDS.



IT'S OUT OF THIS WORLD



THIS MONTH'S OTHER ACTION- PACKED STORY—NOW ON SALE

STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 30



On July 20, 1969 the Apollo II lunar lander, Eagle, descended on to the surface of the Moon. Soon after came the now famous words, 'The Eagle has landed.' Those words were spoken by Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the Moon.